

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.]

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No. 199.—Vol. 8.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1859.

PRICE 2½D.—STAMPED, 3½D.

ENGLAND'S FOREIGN RELATIONS.

So long as the present uncertainty exists on the important question of the continued peace of Europe, the public must naturally feel uneasy about the duties of the country in the event of a crisis. And there is plenty to say on both sides. From our peculiar position, we are frequented by specimens of almost every breed of politicians from the Continent, each doing his best to make his own cause popular amongst us. Many of these are in exile, and have a claim on our sympathy, whether we agree or not with their opinions. All are men who have been connected with political movements, and can write and talk about them. When we add to this that our free press and party divisions combine to secure every side a hearing, it is evident that it is no easy matter for an Englishman to make up his mind. Those who steadily preach "non-intervention" are thus compelled to steer very carefully for fear of the imputations of cowardice or want of sympathy to which everybody who recommends a quiet doctrine is exposed in a time of excitement.

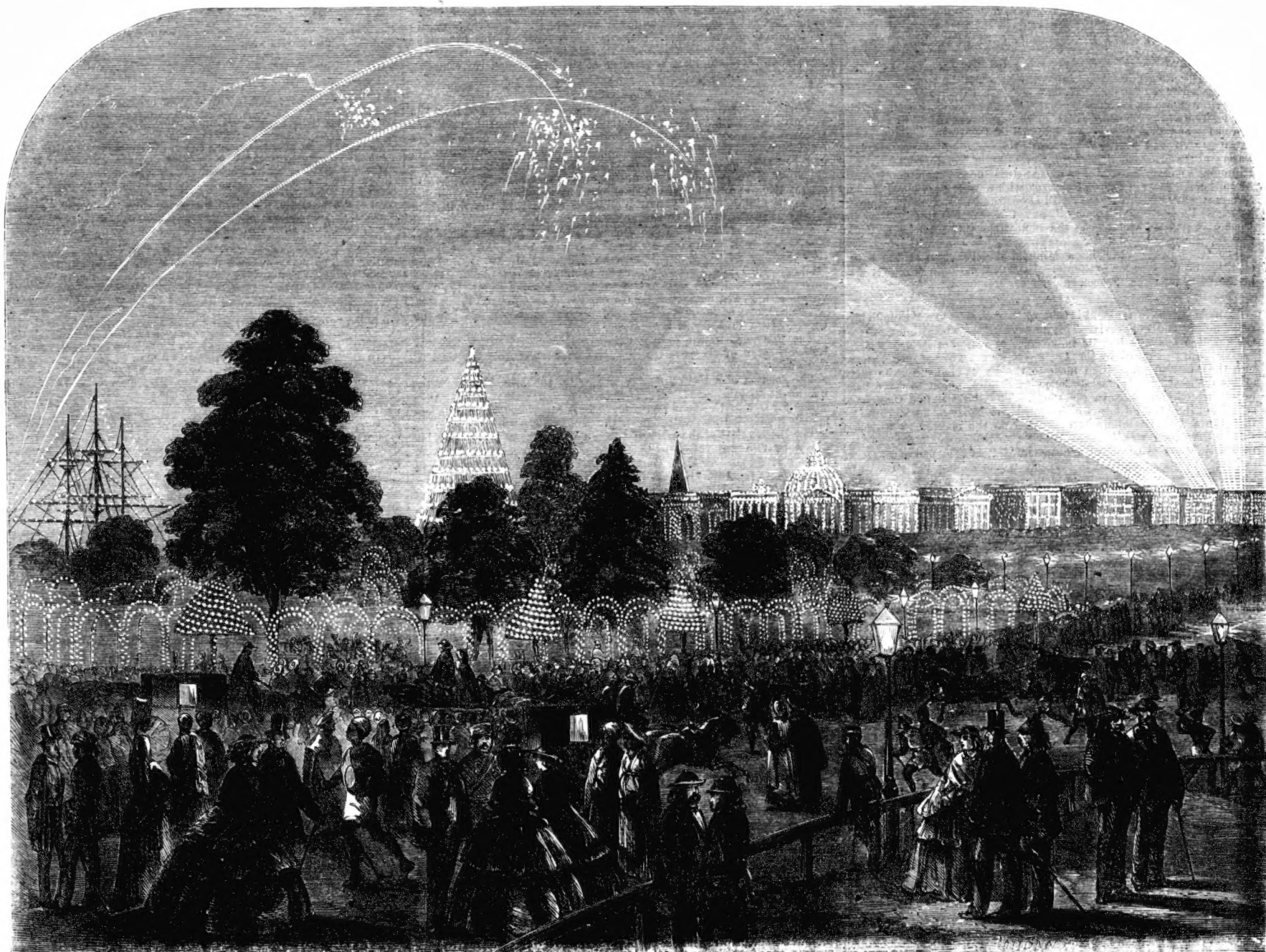
But, after all, where is the great sin of the doctrine that the first duty of an Englishman is towards England, just as the first duty of a private man is to his own family? The "selfishness" of the doctrine is only on the surface, for, if ever we thoroughly set about our duties to our own people, we shall find that they demand sacrifices just as much as fighting the Austrians would. This taunt, then, brushed away to begin with, where are we to find the motive for that political interference into which some would shame us? We are "free," they say, and ought to sympathise with those who wish to be so. Sympathise we do, but why should we act? In the first place, the kind of freedom we have is not of the sort, and never was of the sort, which the noisiest lawlers for aid are seeking; and it is still a disputed question whether their kind of freedom is a boon to mankind after all. Foreign politicians fix their eyes on the outward phenomena of English liberty, and do not consider how it grew. It is a liberty founded on *aw*, to begin with; which has grown from the

local freedom of individuals and places upwards. For example, we have not freedom because we have a parliament and a press, but we have these because we had local self-government first; and we got them and learned to use them only after a long discipline such as no other nation has submitted to. It is evident, then, that we are no more called on, nor more able, to invest other peoples with our institutions than to invest them with our history. The attempt is a contradiction in nature, since we are not Englishmen because we are free, but free because we are Englishmen. You can give a man your money, but you cannot give him your strength, nor are you morally bound to try to do so. In modern times, France undertook the task of reforming other countries politically, and expended a million or so of men on the job. But who thanks her for it? or what did she do but help to abolish violently a few effete things, which had better have died out quietly, at an expense of misery, and hate, and money-spending, the re-action after which is now the main cause of her own despotism and that of the peoples she invaded? We, too, were dragged into the imbroglio (that is the true state of the case) and had to fight our share. We did fight, not especially to restore the Bourbons, though that was the result after Napoleon chose to push his ambition to intolerable limits, but for the sake of the general equilibrium, as a protest against the domination of any one Power and in the interest of our own institutions, honour, and colonial possessions. But the cost is one of the causes of our present embarrassments—a reason, even, why men can, without being hooted, preach that we ought never to be ready for war at all. And, besides, new ways of looking at public affairs have come up. The immense increase of population in modern times, the aggregation of men in cities, and their precarious dependence on trades, have brought up economical questions such as our ancestors were little troubled with. This social change is at the root of our distaste for political wars. It is felt by all statesmen who have a tincture of philosophy, that a new class

of demands is being made on the British constitution. It has played its part as securing our liberties, and now the question is, can it improve our social condition? Our "reform bills," even, are not so political as foreigners think; they are attempts at a practical answer to this last question. The good of the great Reform Bill was, that it gave more prominence to commercial and social subjects; so that instead of a Fox or Pitt who chiefly knew Cicero and Blackstone, we have now a Lord Stanley who also knows the sugar and cotton trades. Accordingly, we want to realise the full benefit of our institutions by using them as machines for internal improvement. But this must needs be impossible, if we persist in helping everybody else to imitations of the machine instead, and that when we can't be sure they won't blow up! In fact (speaking with rigid philosophy) it is absurd to talk of an institution as a machine at all, or as anything apart from the individuals who compose it. The British constitution is the united action of the *élite* of the British people as formed into certain habits of thinking and feeling by many centuries' experience, and accustomed to act in certain relations to each other. It is as much a growth as the island.

These are our grounds for doubting it to be our duty to *propagate* our freedom. But we are sometimes reminded of the danger of a neutral course, and it is as well to consider that aspect of the affair, for prudence' sake.

Supposing that, in the coming (if, as we said last week, it is coming) struggle, Great Britain holds herself steadily aloof from it, content to watch, and with an eye, of course, to her own security—shall we not then run the risk of being the object of some great combination, by and by? The answer to this is, that we have often had such a risk before, and that, with our present resources, there is no chance of our not being able to win one Power as a help in the struggle with others. At any given time, it may be the interest of Powers, separately, to wish us ill; but a crisis is hardly conceivable where it would be the interest of all together. One would think of her commercial



GOVERNMENT HOUSE AND THE ESPLANADE, CALCUTTA, DURING THE ILLUMINATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF THE PROCLAMATION OF THE QUEEN.—(FROM A SKETCH BY J. O. BRYNING.)

relations with us; another would hope to purchase our alliance by betraying the confederacy; and a third would fear that the precedent of such a league might be turned against herself, next. The empire of Great Britain is a different entity from the Republic of Venice, and not so easily robbed. Our strength is not in territories which can be over-run, but in that island home of which no Power can deprive us that is not master of the whole sea, and in the commerce and colonies spread over the entire world, which no Powers yet known have arms long enough and numerous enough to reach. We are much more likely both to provoke offence and to expend the strength with which it should be resisted, by setting ourselves up as the supreme arbiters between countries and their rulers, and undertaking to reform the concerns of both. Besides, we should then be furnishing a dangerous example. Our own geographical position does not encourage us to meddle with continental nations; that of France does. If we once intimate that we will countenance her in putting Italy to rights, we pave the way for her to seize Belgium, and advance on the Rhine. Already her Emperor has gained everything but military glory; and we fear that it is too much to expect from human nature, that he should refrain from seeking what in all ages has been esteemed the most intoxicating cup of life. Let us keep clear of the guilt of assisting him in such an object. In our age of the world, it is an anachronism: it is something that nobody can seek without being consciously criminal. Nothing shows this more conclusively than the way in which great soldiers themselves now speak of their profession, the anxiety with which they dwell on its necessity, and deprecate its mere fame—a tendency very marked both in Wellington and Napier.

It is possible that all these speculations may be laid on the shelf again, by a further development of the prudential element in Louis Napoleon's character. But certainly appearances are the other way. The preparations of Austria show that she seriously fears mischief, and that she is determined to defend her position to the last. It would be mere presumption to decide whether she will succeed. But we strongly advise people not to exaggerate that feature of her difficulties which consists of the "nationalities" of which she is composed. Ages have passed in Europe since political and ethnological unity have been one; since the self government of races, as *races*, has been a political fact. "Nationality" in its modern revival has nowhere been such a success as it promised. However inspiring the sentiment at bottom of it to individuals, it is hard to erect it into a political system in the present state of the world. The tendency of civilisation itself is to unite various races for purposes of government; for the diffusion among them of that stock of experience and enlightenment which exists for the benefit of all.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

THE ministerial journals of France have lately taken a subdued tone; owing to a strong feeling against war which has manifested itself throughout the country. The "Pays" and the "Constitutionnel" have both published articles in deprecation of alarm—the latter under direct inspiration from head-quarters, and with a view to restore the value of securities. In this article the alarm is attributed to three causes—the words addressed by the Emperor to Baron Hubner at the New Year's-day levee, the speech of the King of Sardinia, and the marriage of Prince Napoleon with the Princess of Savoy; and the writer expresses his surprise that they should produce such effects. The address of the Emperor to Baron Hubner—what could be more innocent? And then "every one knows that there were differences between Austria and France" as regards the execution of the Treaty of Paris and the proposed Austrian intervention in Serbia. The King of Piedmont's speech is justified as quite natural under the circumstances. As to the marriage of Prince Napoleon with a princess of the House of Savoy, it will certainly "draw still closer the bonds of political union between France and Piedmont," but the sympathy of France for Piedmont was no secret. At the same time, there can be no doubt that the Emperor is still making large preparations of a warlike character. The "Moniteur" publishes a Ministerial notification of the entire abolition of the *visa* for passports. In future no *visa* whatever will be necessary for either French subjects or foreigners.

AUSTRIA.

THE Austrian Government is said to have circulated a "conciliatory note" on the affairs of Serbia. This note declares, "that although in fact the question has now lost its importance by reason of Prince Milosch having been recognised by the Porte, yet as a matter of international law, the Austrian proposition made to the Pacha of Belgrade to place at his disposal the troops stationed at Semlin, ought to have been forwarded by the Pacha to the Porte. The Porte should then have submitted it to the Powers which signed the treaty of Paris, in order that those Powers might have decided on the manner in which it should have been met." The Paris "Constitutionnel" regards this note with great satisfaction, because in it "Austria makes an act of deference to public opinion in Europe, which cannot but strengthen the confidence in the maintenance of peace, and will complete the calming of the public mind."

It would appear that the Austrian Government on the one hand, and Count Giulay on the other, are satisfied with the warlike preparations now completed in the Lombardo-Venetian provinces.

The English Envoy at Vienna has had several conferences with Count Buol and a special audience with the Emperor lately. There was a rumour that some of the great Powers had demanded the dismissal of Count Buol.

The "Imperial Law Gazette" of Vienna contains a decree prohibiting the exportation of sulphur, lead, and saltpetre to Serbia and the Danubian Principalities.

PRUSSIA.

THE Prince Regent of Prussia opened the Chambers on Wednesday week, in a speech remarkable for the omission of any allusion to the Italian difficulty. The Prince invokes Prussian patriotism, talks of the glorious history and traditions of Prussia; describes the condition of the country as "good;" refers to extensions of the railway system; reports the strengthening of the army and navy; and notifies the success of Germany over Denmark in the matter of the Duchies. This speech ends, as it began, with a patriotic appeal.

The Chamber of Representatives has elected Count Schwerin president, by 274 votes out of 316. M. Arnim, the conservative candidate, obtained only 38 votes. M. Reichensperger, of the catholic party, and M. Mathis, of the Left, have been chosen vice-presidents.

ITALY.

THE arrival of large reinforcements of troops in Austrian Italy does not seem to have quenched the political ferment there. Revolutionary placards are posted on the walls, seditious cries are heard in the streets, and nothing is talked of but the probability of an outbreak. The Austrians are more re-assured; and General Giulay is said to have undertaken to sweep rebellion from the streets, as soon as it appears, with the forces now at his disposal. It is said that the Austrians will declare a state of siege in the States of the Church.

In Naples a royal decree was expected, declaring the city in a state of siege. A decree has appeared ordering the trial of political offences

by military tribunals, and directing that their sentences be carried into effect within twenty-four hours. The text of the edict comprehends the whole kingdom. Councils of war will be instantly called in all places where political disturbances may break out. These councils will have to decide upon the indemnity to be granted to those states which have suffered injury, and their duty will also be to fix the amount of reward to be given to such persons as may have co-operated in the suppression of disturbances. It is asserted that a message in cipher, received from London, was the cause of this measure. The king is evidently alarmed, or perhaps he has been desirous of appearing to perform an act of clemency on the marriage of his heir to the sister of the Empress of Austria; for we are told that pardon has been granted to above eighty political prisoners, including Poerio and Settembrini. But this pardon is clogged with the condition that the prisoners allow themselves to be transported to America, there to take up their residence. Poerio has refused the pardon on those terms.

M. Rattazzi, in assuming the presidency of the Piedmontese Chamber, on the 13th instant, dwelt much upon the increased necessity of harmony and union. He said:—

"The present situation is serious; it calls for the utmost sacrifices on our part. The first and greatest of all is that which the country requires from us—the sacrifice of all personal susceptibilities; the sacrifice of all party spirit; in order that we may unite in one common thought and purpose. . . . Let us not repeat past errors; let us not once more allow history to stigmatise us as impotent, because we are divided. All Italy now turns her eyes towards our parliament. She places the fullest confidence in us; she does not even let us hear her groans; she gives us good advice; she tells us to be united and prudent."

The above remarks produced a profound impression upon the Chamber, and were received with prolonged applause.

Prince Napoleon arrived at Turin on Sunday evening. He was received at the terminus by the Prince de Carignan. The concourse assembled to await his arrival greeted him with shouts of "Viva Napoleon!" "Viva il Rè!" "Viva Francia" and "Viva Italia!" The Prince drove direct to the Royal Palace, and was received at the foot of the grand staircase by the King and his ministers. The first interview between Prince Napoleon and the Princess Clotilde took place on Monday afternoon. In the evening the Prince was present at a ball given by the President of the Council at the palace of the Ministry.

The university of Padua has been closed, because, on the occasion of the burial of Professor Zambra, a seditious disturbance took place among the students: it was immediately suppressed.

A letter from Bologna in the "Unione" of Turin announces the startling fact that in the event of any disturbance in Italy, Pope Pius will fly to Vienna. "Orders have been received in Bologna to prepare for him the villa of St. Michele, in Bosco, whence he might at a few hours' notice easily reach the Austrian garrisons in the Legations."

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe was lately received by the Pope in a private audience, "which was of very long duration."

TURKEY.

THE Turkish Government has contracted, on ruinous conditions, a new loan for 15,000,000 francs. The delegate of the contractors for the great English loan remonstrated against it, but in vain.

Ali Pacha and Fud Pacha have become reconciled, and all reports of ministerial changes have ceased.

We have interesting news by telegraph from the Danubian Principalities. On Monday the election of a Hospodar for Moldavia took place, and Cousa, an advocate for the union of both Principalities, was elected, and assumed the reins of Government.

SERVIA.

THE difficulties of the Servian Skouptschina seem to be solved. Prince Milosch declined to accept any dignity from the Skouptschina which had not been ratified by the Porte; but the Porte has signified its approval of the Prince's election. The news of this concession was received with great rejoicings among the people. Prince Milosch has appointed M. Stereka, a member of the Provisional Government, deputy in his absence.

AMERICA.

THE schooner *Susan*, which it will be remembered escaped from the authorities of Mobile a short time since with a cargo of filibusters, was wrecked on the morning of the 16th of December on Glover's Reef, a coral formation distant about midway between the Belize and Omoa, and her rescued passengers were taken thence to the Belize. Here Governor Seymour offered them the British steamer *Basilisk*, to convey them to any southern port of the United States. They elected to go to Mobile. The American journals agree that the Britishers "behaved gentlemanly" on this occasion.

Congress re-assembled on the 4th inst., after a recess of ten days. The Senate took possession for the first time of their new and beautiful chamber, of which we printed an engraving in No. 197 of the "Illustrated Times." The Chairman of the Senate's Committee on Naval Affairs reported bills providing for the construction of ten new vessels of war, and for increasing the pay of officers of the navy.

The payment of interest which had accrued on bonds has left the United States Treasury at Washington nearly empty.

The prisoners in the case of the brig *Wanderer*, which recently landed a cargo of slaves in Georgia, had been committed for trial at Savannah.

The election of a United States senator by the Illinois Legislature was about to take place. Mr. Douglass, who has been "going in" wildly for seizing Cuba and annexing Central America, had been unanimously nominated for re-election by the democratic party.

The British fleet at the port of San Juan del Norte has been reinforced by two war vessels—the *Cesar* and *Diadem*—one of which mounts 91 guns. Sir Gore Ouseley's health is said to have suffered considerably from the climate of Central America.

Accounts from Utah state that the service of a civil process upon Brigham Young had been resisted by his friends, and that trouble would perhaps grow out of it.

A New Orleans telegram says:—"Private advices received here confirm positively the report that a number of Americans were in Cuba, ready to aid the revolutionists. They all left New Orleans with regular passports."

DEATH OF THE KING OF NAPLES.

A telegraphic despatch, dated Paris, Thursday, 11.40 P.M., announces the death of the King of Naples as having taken place that morning.

LAW OF FOREIGN DEBTORS IN FRANCE.—A decision of interest to foreign debtors has been given by the French Imperial Court. The law of 1832 on arrest for debt decided that debtors who did not pay should be imprisoned for periods varying according to the amount of the debt; but the law of the 13th of December, 1848, which established a new series of regulations relative to arrest for debt, decided that in all cases in which no specific period of imprisonment was mentioned, the tribunal ordering the arrest should fix the period at from six months to five years. A Wallachian, named Mano, was some time ago lodged in the debtors' prison at Clichy by no fewer than six creditors. After six months' confinement, he applied, in November last, to the Civil Tribunal to order his release, on the ground that as his judgment did not say how long he was to be imprisoned, he could not be detained longer than six months, the minimum fixed by the law. His creditors in answer maintained that as the law of 1848 said nothing about foreigners, he remained under the operation of the law of 1832, and must stay in prison for the period named in it for the amount of his debts. But the tribunal decided that the law of 1848 was applicable to foreigners as well as to natives; and that in virtue of it, Mano ought to have the period of his imprisonment fixed. It therefore, making up the omission in the judgment of arrest, fixed that period at two years. Mano, however, not satisfied with this decision, appealed to the Imperial Court to have it set aside, on the ground that the tribunal had no power to amend its original judgment by adding a period of imprisonment, and that as no period had been fixed in that original judgment he ought not to be detained longer than the minimum, six months, named by law. The court, for various technical reasons, one of which was that the law should be interpreted in favour of liberty, decided that Mano's objections were well founded. It therefore quashed the judgment of the tribunal, and ordered him to be released.

THE INDIAN REVOLT.

LATE telegraphic despatches report that the subjugation of the disturbed districts is rapidly progressing; the insurgents are dissolving before the merciful conditions offered by the Queen's proclamation, and the dismantling of forts and disarming of the population is being carried on rigorously.

On the 1st of December Brigadier Troup's column met a large body of rebels at Biswa, in Oude, commanded by Ismael Khan. Our artillery and cavalry only were engaged, but the enemy made very little stand, and fled. The result of this affair was, that on the 4th, Ismael Khan gave himself up, with a considerable number of adherents. Some others have since followed his example.

Tantia Topee is still at large. When last heard of he was supposed to be making for Oodeypore, in Rajpootana.

On the 5th December, a party of rebel fugitives, from the Fil Fittili, at Biswa, eluding the vigilance of the British troops posted along the banks of the Ganges, between Cawnpore and Kimong, crossed at once into the Doab, with intention, it is conjectured, of joining Tantia Topee in Central India. This party, under Ferode Shah, mustered nine hundred horse, three hundred foot, one small gun, and some elephants. On the 8th they were encountered by Mr. Hume, who was forced to retire upon Hurchandpore, where he occupied a small fort.

On the 12th the rebel party was at Tangeona, moving south, plundering and burning as they went, and closely pursued by General Napier.

The following telegram, dated Gwalior, 18th December, from Major Manakarsen, gives the latest intelligence of them at Ranade:—

"On the 17th of December, Sir R. Napier's force beat and pursued with slaughter for eight miles, the rebels under Ferode Shah. Captain Mende, 14th Dragoons, captured six elephants. Captain Prettijohn, 14th Dragoons, wounded in leg, and eight or ten men wounded—none killed."

The "Times" correspondent gives an unfavourable report of the native feeling. "Military resistance, it is true, is dying away, but the discontent is scarcely, if at all, allayed. The feeling of the people is most bitter. Nowhere can we obtain the smallest voluntary assistance. The Commander-in-Chief can buy no information. Mr. Money, in his official report on the clearance of Shahabad, says the people are universally hostile, that he can gain no intelligence, and that he is met everywhere by a passive sympathy for the rebels. The local officers all over the country tell the same story. Taxation is suspended, a fact which would be attractive even in England. The courts, which threaten all men's property, and which are hated with the hatred our forefathers bore to the Star Chamber, cease to exist. Add to this, that the old proprietors have recovered their estates, and that every man has had an opportunity of gratifying all his enmities without being called to account, and you may understand why 'respectable yeomen' look exceedingly sulky."

The sentence of transportation passed some months ago upon his Majesty the ex-King of Delhi has at last been carried into effect. Her Majesty's ship *Megara* has taken the Royal prisoner on board at Calcutta, to convey him to his final destination, the Cape of Good Hope. His Majesty was accompanied by two of his wives, and several other members of his family, who follow him in his exile.

COUNTER-PROCLAMATION OF THE QUEEN OF OUDE.

The Begum or Queen of Oude has issued a counter-proclamation, written in the finest court Persian. The document is headed by a fine regal seal, and is in all respects a regular Oriental state paper. The following translation, though very cleverly made, is said to be still deficient in the subtlety and elegant diction of the original. It is remarked that its production affords sufficient proof that Queen Victoria's proclamation was producing an effect which the Begum's party found essential to neutralise or destroy.

"At this time certain weak-minded, foolish people have spread a report that the English have forgiven the faults and crimes of the people of Hindostan. This appears very astonishing, for it is the unvarying custom of the English never to forgive a fault, be it great or small, so much so that if a small offence be committed through ignorance or negligence, they never forgive it."

"The proclamation of the 1st of November, 1858, which has come before us is perfectly clear; and, as some foolish people, not understanding the real object of the proclamation, have been carried away, therefore we, the ever-abiding Government, parents of the people of Oude, with great consideration, put forth the present proclamation, in order that the real object of the chief points may be exposed and our subjects placed on their guard."

"1. It is written in the proclamation that the country of Hindostan, which was held in trust by the Company, has been resumed by the Queen, and that for the future the Queen's laws shall be obeyed. This is not to be trusted by our religious subjects, for the laws of the Company, the settlement of the Company, the English servants of the Company, the Governor-General, and the judicial administration of the Company, are all unchanged. What, then, is there now which can benefit the people, or on what can they rely?"

"2. In the proclamation it is written that all contracts and agreements entered into by the Company will be accepted by the Queen. Let the people carefully observe this artifice. The Company has seized on the whole of Hindostan, and, if the arrangement be accepted, what is there new in it? The Company professed to treat the Chief of Bhurtpore as a son, and then took his territory; the Chief of Lahore was carried off to London, and it has not fallen to his lot to return; the Nawab Lhumshodeen Khan on one side they hanged, and on the other side they took off their hats and salaamed to him; the Peishwah they expelled from Poonah Sitara, and imprisoned for life in Bhitoor; their breach of faith with Sultan Tipoo is well known; the Rajah of Benares they imprison in Agra. Under pretence of administering the country of the Chief of Gwalior, they introduced English customs; they have left no name nor traces of the Chiefs of Behar, Orissa, and Bengal; they gave the Raes of Furruckabad a small monthly allowance, and took his territory, Shahjehanpore, Bareilly, Azimghur, Jounpore, Gorruckpore, Etawah, Allahabad, Futteypore, &c. Our ancient possessions they took from us on pretence of distributing pay; and in the 7th article of the treaty they wrote on oath that they would take no more from us. If, then, the arrangements made by the Company are to be accepted, what is the difference between the former and the present state of things? These are old affairs; but recently, in defiance of treaties and oaths, and notwithstanding that they owed us millions of rupees, without reason, and on the pretence of the misconduct and discontent of our people, they took our country and property, worth millions of rupees. If our people were discontented with our royal predecessor, Wajid Ally Shah, how comes it they are content with us? And no ruler ever experienced such loyalty and devotion of life and goods as we have done? What, then, is wanting that they do not restore our country?"

"Further, it is written in the proclamation, that they want no increase of territory, but yet they cannot refrain from annexation. If the Queen has assumed the Government, why does her Majesty not restore our country to us when our people wish it? It is well known that no king or queen ever punished a whole army and people for rebellion; all were forgiven, and the wise cannot approve of punishing the whole army and the people of Hindostan, for so long as the word 'punishment' remains, the disturbances will not be suppressed. There is a well-known proverb—'A dying man is desperate' (Murta kya no kurta). It is impossible that a thousand should attack a million, and the thousand escape."

"In the proclamation it is written, that the Christian religion is true, but no other creed will suffer oppression, and that the laws will be observed to all. What has the administration of justice to do with the truth or falsehood of a religion? That religion is true which acknowledges one God and knows no other. Where there are three Gods in a religion, neither Mussulmans, nor Hindoos, nay, not even Jews, Sun-worshippers, or Fire-worshippers can believe it true. To eat pigs and drink wine, to bite greased cartridges and to mix pig's fat with flour and sweetmeats, to destroy Hindoo and Mussulman temples on pretence of making roads, to build churches, to send clergymen into the streets and alleys to preach the Christian religion, to institute English schools, and pay people a monthly stipend for learning the English sciences, while the places of worship of Hindoos and Mussulmans are to this day entirely neglected; with all this, how can the people believe that religion will not be interfered with? The rebellion began with religion, and for it millions of men have been killed. Let not our subjects be deceived; thousands were deprived of their religion in the North-West, and thousands were hanged rather than abandon their religion."

"It is written in the proclamation that they who harboured rebels, or who were leaders of rebels, or who caused men to rebel, shall have their lives, but that punishment shall be awarded after deliberation, and that murderers and abettors of murderers shall have no mercy shown them, while all others shall be forgiven. Any foolish person can see that under this proclamation no one, be he guilty or innocent, can escape. Everything is written, and yet nothing is written, but they have clearly written that they will not let off any one implicated; and in whatever village or estate

the army may have halted, the inhabitants of that place cannot escape. We are deeply concerned for the condition of our people, on reading this proclamation, which probably tempts to unity. We now issue a distinct order, and one that may be trusted—that all subjects who may have foolishly presented themselves as heads of villages to the English, shall, before the first of January next, present themselves in our camp. Without doubt their faults shall be forgiven them, and they shall be treated according to their merits. To believe in this proclamation, it is only necessary to remember that Hindostanee rulers are altogether kind and merciful. Thousands have seen this, millions have heard it. No one has ever seen in a dream that the English forgive an offence.

In this proclamation it is written that when peace is restored, public works, such as roads and canals, will be made in order to improve the condition of the people. It is worthy of a little reflection, that they have promised no better employment for Hindostances than making roads and digging canals. If people cannot see clearly what this means, there is no help for them. Let no subject be deceived by the proclamation."

LORD CLYDE'S PARENTAGE.—The "Inverness Courier" says:—"The paragraph which appeared in the Glasgow papers intimating the recent death of Lord Clyde's father turns out to be incorrect. That gentleman died many years ago, and we are enabled to give the following particulars regarding the parentage of the noble veteran, on the authority of a personal friend of Lord Clyde. His lordship's father was Colonel John Campbell, who served with the late Duke of Kent, or on his staff, for a very long period. When quartered in Glasgow, Colonel Campbell made what is called a Scotch marriage with a good-looking young woman much his inferior in station, education, and position, and by her had a daughter and a son, both now living, the latter being Lord Clyde. The mother died while the children were very young, and the colonel was sent abroad with the duke. On his departure, the children were left with the mother, or with her relations, if she had died previously to that event, of which our informant is not quite sure, and to this may be attributed the story which has been going the round of the papers. The mother's name may have been M'Liver, and the children may have borne that name until Colonel Campbell returned from foreign service, when he took charge of them. They certainly were then called by the name of Campbell. Through the duke's interest Colonel Campbell obtained a commission for his son, who embarked for the Peninsula, and two days after landing was at the battle of Vittoria. In one of the engagements under Sir Thomas Graham (the late Lord Lynedoch), the young officer distinguished himself so highly that Sir Thomas sent for him and said that if he could be of service to him at any time he was not to hesitate in seeking his good offices. When Sir Thomas commanded the army before St. Sebastian, an opportunity presented itself, and Sir Colin claimed the fulfilment of the promise; and when asked how he could be served, replied, "By giving me the command of the fortiori hope." This he obtained, and gained the breach; but was forced back, wounded, in consequence of the support not coming up quick enough.

SIR JOHN BOWRING.—The China mail of 30th November says:—"Sir John Bowring has been suffering for some time from serious illness, aggravated by domestic calamities, furious local squabbles, and the hostility of Mr. Chisholm Anstey, who has on oath declared that he has sworn to work the destruction of something he calls 'the Bridges administration.' Sir John's tenure of office expires, we believe, in April next; and certainly there are few local reasons for his being continued another year, but many to the contrary. He left Hong Kong yesterday, on a few weeks' trip to Manila and Labuan; and, during his absence, his place will be filled by the Lieutenant-Governor, the Honourable Colonel Cairne."

ORLEANS IDEAS OF THE SLAVE TRADE.—The Duke de Broglie, an Orleanist "purging," was called as a witness before the slave-trade commission, presided over by Prince Napoleon. He pronounced an unhesitating opinion that the "immigration," as practised by the Charles-et-Georges and other French vessels in like case, was to all intents and purposes identical with the slave trade. The Duke's evidence was listened to with great attention. "The Prince Napoleon overheard him with politeness," says the correspondent of the "Globe," "and while conducting him to the door assured him that his views would probably be adopted by the commission, but at all events by the Government."

THE CUBAN SLAVE-TRADERS.—A "Free Negro" writes to the "Times" as follows:—"The Cubans, infamous for their obstinate addiction to man-stealing and man-selling, do not appear to like the prospect of being themselves sold. A nation in whose public newspapers may be read any day in the week advertisements of negro wet-nurses, 'gentle and good-tempered, very fond of children, and with fine breasts of milk, to be sold, with or without their babies,' thus addresses its Sovereign when it learns that she is on the point of disposing of them, not with or without their babies, but in the lump:—Madam,—The Ayuntamiento of Havana not read without profound surprise the recent message of the President of the United States, in which the infamous idea is announced that that Government has intended, and intends, to purchase the island of Cuba—a pretension which must be looked upon as doubly insulting to the nobleness of the nation and to the dignity of the sons of Cuba, who, it appears, are considered no better than a drove of slaves that can be sold like a private estate. . . . The shame of being sold cannot be supported by those who always appreciate their existence as a part of a nation to which they have ever been assimilated in habit, religion, and customs, and which transmitted to them the beautiful language of Cervantes."

HOW THE AMERICANS SUPPRESS THE SLAVE TRADE.—The "New York Herald" publishes a letter, dated on board the United States' ship Cumberland, off St. Paul de Loando, which, it says, "well illustrates how completely our naval officers on the African coast, acting, doubtless, under instructions from the Navy Department, contrive to nullify the Webster-Ashburton treaty, which requires us to keep a squadron of seventy guns on the coast of Africa for the suppression of the slave trade. In the first place, instead of sending a number of light cruisers or steamers adapted to the service, and armed with two or three guns each, we send the frigate Cumberland, which draws too much water to get near the coast, and which herself supplies fifty or sixty guns of the seventy required. In the next place, this vessel, out of fifteen months at the date of the letter during which she had been nominally stationed on the African coast, had passed, in fact, but twenty-two days on the usual cruising-ground for slavers, and thirteen of these twenty-two days she was at anchor. Three months of the fifteen have been passed at the pleasant island of Madeira to recruit the health of the crew after their fearful exposure on the African coast, and eight months more at the Cape Verde, making a continuous absence from the African coast of eleven months. The capture of the Cortez during the short period she remained shows what she might have done had she stuck to her business. She got back, it seems, to the Congo River just in time to let the Wanderer escape. Still, Mr. Cass and Mr. Buchanan have the impudence to pretend that they are as much in favour of the suppression of the slave trade as anybody."

FATHER VENTURA, the preacher at the Tuileries, has published a book called "Un Essai sur le Pouvoir," which makes some sensation in diplomatic circles. He proposes the settlement of the Italian question by buying Austria out of Lombardy with a very large sum of money, and then constituting an Italian confederation, of which the Pope would be the president.

AMERICAN SENATORS.—The "New York Herald" says:—"The spectacle that is presented in our Congressional sessions is one that stinks in the nostrils of the whole country. Time is frittered away with an incessant wrangling that is disgraceful to a deliberative assembly. Language that would be expected from only the lowest rips of society is continually heard upon its floor. Scoundrel and liar are among the frequent epithets applied by members to each other; and when their lungs tire with vituperative repetition, a fistful fight in the aisles and open space before the Speaker's chair is brought in as a relief. Out of doors the scene is no better. Canes are broken over each other's heads, brickbats are thrown, and pistols are not unfrequently resorted to. These are the daytime occupations of the members. If we could follow them into their nightly haunts, scenes still more disgusting would meet our view. The riot and filth of the roaring detachment would be the most venial, and from that through every act of unbridled license, ending in the gambling-house or the brothel. Their courses of life would disgrace the occupants of our penitentiary, while those of our New York Penitentiary, at least, have the merit of earning their living by their labour, which is more than can be said of the members of Congress. In this disgraceful picture no distinction of parties can be made. All are alike in their blackguardism, corruption, and rascality. It is not the discussion of the public business that gives rise to these scenes, but it is the constant quarrelling, intriguing, cheating, and lying that are carried on for private and political purposes. Every man has his blistering and shoulder-hitting partisanship at home to reward or defend his own views of personal advancement; his particular political clique to advance, and some ambitious aspirant for the presidency to help to force upon his party. With some, the motive is power; with others, money; with others, again, fear of exposure; while not a few are only obeying their own vile instincts. In this way the power of the country is weakened, the revenue squandered by millions, the Government disgraced, and the people plundered. The president may do his duty, but, unsupported as he is by Congress, he can do nothing. He has not the power to act; and we have already seen, even in the last session, how impossible it is to get Congress to do anything effective. The request for power in the cases of our Central American and Paraguayan difficulties was first refused, and the last only granted at the last moment. In fact, every man, instead of being actuated by a sincere desire to advance the interests of the country, seems to be under a constant fear that somebody may get a chance to do something that will make him prominent before the people."

IRELAND.

THE IRISH SECRET SOCIETIES.

THE "Northern Whig" has published a copy of the "secret" examination of the fifteen persons arrested in Belfast. How the "Whig" obtained the report is not known, and the publication has, it is said, caused much "surprise and annoyance" to the Irish Government.

The evidence of Hugh Carlin, one of the approvers, has some points of interest. After stating that he was a member of the Knights of St. Patrick Threshers Society, and that he had heard it called the "Ribbon Society," he said:—

"We had signs and passwords. I don't mind the signs of the last quarter; but I remember some of the passwords, as near as I can recollect, were, 'We expect a war between England and France;' the reply to which was, 'Yes, the Irish brigade is on the advance;' 'Let each man fill his station;' 'The navvies are making preparation;' There were also passwords, called quarrelling passwords, which were, 'Don't be ignorant;' the reply to which was, 'I am better bred;' There is also a night password, which is, 'The clouds are dark;' the reply to which was, 'Yes, they are dark as heresy.'"

The approver then named several of the prisoners who were members of the society. He continued:—

"I have been a long time in this society. It is confined to one religion only—the Roman Catholic. I know of my own knowledge that all the prisoners now present are Roman Catholics. I met them all at chapel. The places where the meetings of the society are always held are kept by Roman Catholics." "Does the Roman Catholic clergy know you to be a member of the society?"—"I suppose not." "If you were on your death bed, would the Roman Catholic clergy go to you if they knew you belonged to that society?"—"They would come, but would not give me the rites of my Church unless I dropped it."

John Kelly, the other approver, was examined. He said:—

"I am a law clerk. I belong to the Ribbon Society in Belfast. I was admitted into the society at Bernard Royle's public-house in Mill Street, Belfast. I made the obligation to Patrick M'Shane, who desired me to go down on my knees, and bless myself in 'the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost—amen;' and after repeating these words I repeated the words after, saying, 'I, John Kelly, do solemnly declare that I will uphold this society, and that I will take part in any quarrel where a brother should be engaged, and that I will attend all meetings, wherever they shall be appointed in the town of Belfast.' There were some other things in the oath I don't remember. The society is entirely confined to persons of the Roman Catholic religion."

The prisoners were discharged on security to appear at the next assizes. Bail was given, themselves in £100, and two securities in £50 each.

REPRESENTATION OF ENNISKILLEN.—Mr. Whiteside, the Attorney-General, retires from the representation of Enniskillen, having sat for the borough since 1851. The learned gentleman is to be a candidate for the University, in succession to Mr. George A. Hamilton, and it is considered probable that he will be returned without at least any serious opposition. The Hon. John Cole, one of the Enniskillen family, was applied to to fill up the vacancy about to be created by the retirement of Mr. Whiteside, but he declined the honour on the score of delicate health. Two gentlemen connected with the Government then put in their claims, but they found no favour in the eyes of the constituency. In this emergency, Mr. Paul Dane, a gentleman of great local influence, has been selected as the choice of the Enniskillen Tories. A contest, however, is expected.

STARTLING INTELLIGENCE.—A farmer named Quigley, of Kilcommon, in the King's County, was married last week. After returning to his house from the marriage feast, at an early hour in the morning, accompanied by his bride, he found his furniture smashed, and a notice attached to his best four-poster, intimating that his recent visitors "would be the death of him, married or single!" Not a very pleasant welcome. It is said that the bridegroom was about to be married to a young woman in the neighbourhood, whom he deserted for a larger fortune.

LIFE AND PROPERTY PROTECTION.—A meeting of the nobility, gentry, and others interested in the peace and prosperity of Ireland, is to be held at Dublin, on the 27th instant, under the presidency of the Marquis of Downshire. The object of the meeting is to consider the propriety of forming a permanent association for obtaining such amendments in the law as may appear from time to time necessary for the better protection of life and property. It is also intended to propose measures for the encouragement of improving tenants and the assistance of the labouring poor.

THE PROPHET NUGENT.—John Francis Nugent, publisher of a seditious Irish almanack, has been held to bail to keep the peace—that is, to suspend the publication of the "Prophetic Almanack" for seven years.

POSTAL COMMUNICATION BETWEEN IRELAND AND ENGLAND.—The City of Dublin Steam Company held a special meeting on Saturday last to receive the report of the directors in reference to the contract for the mail service. The report was adopted. There are to be two departures from Dublin—7 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.; and two from London—at 7.30 a.m. and 8.30 p.m. The distance to be performed in eleven hours, or a penalty of 34s. a minute. Four boats, 600-horse power and 300 feet long, to be built for the service, with a speed of twenty miles an hour. The company must be ready to work in two years.

SCOTLAND.

AULD REEKIE.—Mrs. Reekie, a widow, died at Pathhead, near Kircaldy, last week. She was known to have been the last of those young ladies who lighted the fires in Ravenscraig Castle when the men of Pathhead kept armed watch and ward nightly for the return of Paul Jones. She often referred to this period in her life, and described minutely the appearance of Mr. Shirra, when engaged in praying on the beach for that wind which drove the vessels of the dreaded Paul down the Firth. She was 27 years single, 44 years married, and 28 years a widow, and was in the habit of saying that she had lived three lifetimes. Her offspring was as follows: 9 children, 65 grandchildren, 116 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren—in all 193.—Edinburgh Courant.

LORD PANMURE'S PRINCIPLES.—The good town of Brechin presented its Provost with a piece of plate and a dinner. Among the guests was Lord Panmure, who thus referred to his own principles:—"Essentially—however unpopular the expression may be—essentially, I say, they are those of a Whig. The old Whig principles I understood from the life, conversation, speeches, and character of the man whose name I bear—Charles James Fox. The principles of Whiggery are these—to maintain the liberties of the people against the encroachments of the aristocracy and of the Crown. These were the principles upon which Mr. Fox acted, and upon these principles I act still. But, gentlemen, there is a reverse to what I have thus stated. Whig principles stop at a certain point, and then turn; and, while maintaining the just rights of the people, they are equally prepared, if necessary, to defend the rights of the Crown and of the aristocracy, from undue encroachment on the part of the people. These are what I understand to be Whig principles."—At this dinner, too, Mr. John Don, merchant, of Dundee, in replying to the toast of the "manufacturing interest of the county," made the following bold observations:—"In the first place, trade is, at present, in such an unsatisfactory position in this country, that the less we say about it the better. On the other hand, public opinion has been so shocked during the last twelve months at the vast amount of mercantile blackguardism which has come to light, more particularly in Glasgow, the most sanctimonious of all our Scottish towns, that I think it behoves mercantile men to hide their diminished heads, and to refrain from blowing the mercantile trumpet, until they have repented in sackcloth and ashes for a season."

THE PROVINCES.

A PLEASANT STORY.—A boy was imprisoned in Ipswich jail for stealing a watch. When about to be liberated, he told Mr. Alloway, the governor, that he should go to his friends at Richmond in Yorkshire, from whom he had run away. Mr. Alloway communicated with his father, and the poor man begged him to retain the young sinner until an elder brother arrived to take him home. The elder brother came—he had walked all the way—the last twelve miles without foot. He stated he had eight shillings only when he started from home; but he had brought his trowel with him, being a bricklayer, hoping, on his way home, to meet with a job to support himself and brother on the journey homewards. Mr. Alloway kindly gave both lads a good and substantial meal, and provided them with funds, and started them on their way rejoicing.

DISGRACEFUL SCENE AT A WEDDING.—Three couples, of the working class, presented themselves on Sunday morning at Southover (Sussex), to be united in wedlock; but the clergyman did not arrive till half-past ten, at which time the congregation began to arrive. It appears that one or more persons among the contracting parties had rendered themselves obnoxious by unfaithfulness, and the popular feeling was manifested in a shameful manner. In the church were placed loaves of bread to be given away to some of the poorer parishioners. Some of these loaves were broken up, and pieces were thrown at the newly-wedded couples as they were about to leave the church. A large mob collected outside, who assailed them with tufts of grass, and sprigs of ivy, torn from the church walls.

SHIP ON FIRE AT BRISTOL.—On Saturday afternoon the Porto Novo, lying alongside a wharf at Bristol, and containing a valuable cargo of palm oil, ebony, bar-wood, elephants' teeth, gum, etc., took fire in consequence of an explosion produced by the fall of a loaded crate upon some loose gunpowder. For two hours the men on board the vessel made every exertion to extinguish the fire, but with little success. Property of the value of £3,000 was destroyed, and two men were dreadfully injured.

A DOUBTFUL STORY.—The "Daily News" has the following story:—"A poor boy, who has lost the use of his legs, but who is an accomplished musician, and plays with admirable taste and skill upon the accordion, has been for several years gaining a livelihood by street-playing in Liverpool. In the long summer evenings crowds of delighted listeners have been accustomed to gather in a circle around him, and remain almost entranced by his beautiful and expressive airs and improvisations. We learn with pleasure that Miss Burdett Coutts has taken the youth under her care, and intends to promote his fortunes."

PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THE LIVERPOOL DOCKS.—The new Liverpool Dock Board resolved at a special meeting on Saturday, to apply to Parliament for powers to borrow £300,000 for the purpose of improving and extending the Liverpool Docks. The chairman stated, as an evidence of the satisfactory condition of the estate, that the receipts of the board for 1858 had exceeded those of 1857 by £500, though the returns in 1857 were greater than had previously been experienced.

TWO LIVES LOST BY FIRE.—Two men were engaged in pouring some naphtha out of one vessel into another on the premises of a ship-chandler, at Goole, when the naphtha became ignited, the premises were set on fire, and the two men were burnt to death. The fire raged for upwards of an hour, and did great damage.

A GHOST STORY.—A tradesman and his wife, who reside in Reading, were awoke one night recently by a singular noise, which on subsequent occasions was repeated. It seemed to them, as they lay in bed, "and is comparable," we are told, "to nothing but a death gasp, which continues a few seconds, and nothing is heard until the lapse of a quarter of an hour, when a deep groaning runs through the room. Another silence follows, but after an interval of perhaps half an hour, it is broken by a loud, shrill shriek." A minister was sent for, and he slept in the house two nights; the second night the noise was heard, but the cause was still a secret. Then the floor of the room was taken up, the chimneys were examined, and other measures were adopted to discover the mystery, but all proved of no avail; "at length it was determined upon that Mrs. — should sleep at the house of a friend, residing at a village a short distance from Reading. She accordingly retired to rest in an apartment occupied by two of her friends, but, extraordinary to relate, they were alarmed by the same strange noise in the dead of the night. Mr. — was compelled to take to his bed, and his condition is very dangerous."

THE BISHOP OF ADELAIDE ON CHRISTIAN UNION.—Mr. Binney, a celebrated Congregationalist minister, now in Australia, set on foot a memorial signed by the Governor-in-chief and ministers of state, asking the Bishop of Adelaide to permit him (Mr. Binney) to preach in pulpits under episcopal control. The bishop declines to do this; but at the same time propounds a scheme of Christian union, as will be seen from the following passages in his letter. He says, "I think it untoward that his excellency the Governor should have been mixed up with the correspondence between you and myself. Church and State have been separated in this colony, and I know not why an official character should have been given to a memorial concerning the administration of this diocese. If I have doubt how far the letter of the ecclesiastical statute law of the Established Church of England is applicable to this or other colonial dioceses, I have none as respects its spirit, nor of the inspired authority of the apostolic tradition of eighteen centuries on which that law is founded. . . . Had I felt sure that no statute law would have been violated, I should not have transgressed the custom of our church without first consulting the metropolitan and other bishops of the province of Australasia, as well as the Archbishop of Canterbury. Consequently I think that I ought not to have been invited by those high in authority in this colony to take a step, on my own responsibility, which, though possibly not an actual, would have been at least a virtual, transgression of the law of our church. Having stated why I was unable to invite you to preach to our congregation I took occasion from thence to urge a consideration of the terms on which at some future time possibly that inability might be removed. The indispensable conditions appeared to me to be three:—The acceptance in common by the evangelical churches of the orthodox creed. The use in common of settled liturgy though not to the exclusion of free prayer, as provided for in the Directory of the assembly of divines at Westminster. An episcopate freely elected by the United Evangelical churches, not (as I have been misrepresented) exclusively by our own. No notice, however, of these preliminary conditions was taken in the memorial addressed to me. Without them there would be no security against the intrusion even of heretical preachers into our pulpits."

INTERESTING DISCOVERY.—An interesting discovery has just been made at Nonancourt, in the department of the Eure. The parish priest of that village had in the vestry of his church an ornament called a "bourse," which is used to cover the chalice in carrying it from the vestry to the altar and back. This bourse was worn out, and had not been used for some time. It had, however, been very rich, being composed of scarlet silk embroidered with gold. The priest took it to pieces in order to have it repaired, and in the lining he found a paper with the following words written on it, and split in the old French orthography: "I am the cordon of James, the last King of Great Britain of the family of the Stuarts. If you wish to know how it happened that I was converted into an ornament, read the history of the Regency of the Duke of Orleans during the minority of Louis XV. Given to the church in 1753 by Madame L'Hopital." The history of that period mentions that the Pretender, son of James II., escaped assassination at Nonancourt, in the year 1715, through the presence of mind and courage of Madame L'Hopital. It may be inferred from this discovery that the Pretender left his cordon of the Order of the Bath with Madame L'Hopital, as he was forced to assume a disguise in order to escape from the assassins. According to St. Simon, Madame L'Hopital died in 1740, and her daughter-in-law gave the cordon to the church.

THE PRINCESS CLOTILDA.—A young girl, not five years old at the Revolution of 1848, is brought from school to be united to a Prince of the new dynasty which issued from the Revolution. Strange and often pitiful is the destiny of princesses. Even in talking of this event—so delicate and sacred and full of maidenly consideration for all other young girls of sixteen—we forget the young lady of sixteen in her Sardinian home. No one asks what she thinks of it; whether in marrying a man of thirty-eight she finds her heart in her choice, or whether she gladly leaves her country to find a home in that Paris which has sent into exile—even sometimes to the scaffold—so many princesses from strange lands unhappily allied to its reigning families. One thinks sadly of the poor Duchess of Orleans, who entered turbulent Paris not very full of hope in her new life, and who left it to die in exile. We think of the Duchess Montpensier whom Louis Philippe compassed heaven and earth to obtain for his son, and who, in the confusion of the 24th of February, walked out of the Tuileries quite alone, in her escaping journey lost her satin shoe, and like one of the homeless poor had to walk half a mile in her stockings through the snow-covered streets of a provincial town. What a plight for a Bourbon! But the young girl told her escort that she preferred it to sitting round the work-table at the Tuileries—where, under the good Queen Amelia, the chit-chat was dull, and the inevitable scandal piously stupid—at least to the quicker ears of the Spanish Infanta. Let us hope for the Princess Clotilda a happier fate in her new home. She has her name through a French ancestress, the Princess Clotilda, sister of Louis XIV., whom a writer of the last century portrays—"as fat as butter, very merry, and good-natured."—Spectator.

THE MEXICAN DIFFICULTY.—A rumour prevails in the dockyards that the disordered state of Mexico, and the continual insults and exactions to which English subjects have been subjected there, have at length aroused the serious attention of the British Government, and measures of a severe and effective nature are, it is believed, in contemplation to keep the parties in power in that distracted country in wholesome dread of violating the law of nations.

A SPANISH IDEA.—The "Cronica," a spirited little Spanish paper published in New York, with "inspiration" from the legation of her Catholic Majesty at Washington, states that it understands that a member of the Cortes will shortly introduce a resolution calling on the Ministry to take measures for the purchase of Key West, the United States insular naval station off the coast of Florida, on the ground that "the said Key, situated but a few hours' sail from the port of Havana, is exceedingly desirable for the protection of our interests in the island of Cuba." This resolution, if offered, would be no bad burlesque of the recommendation to purchase Cuba of Spain.

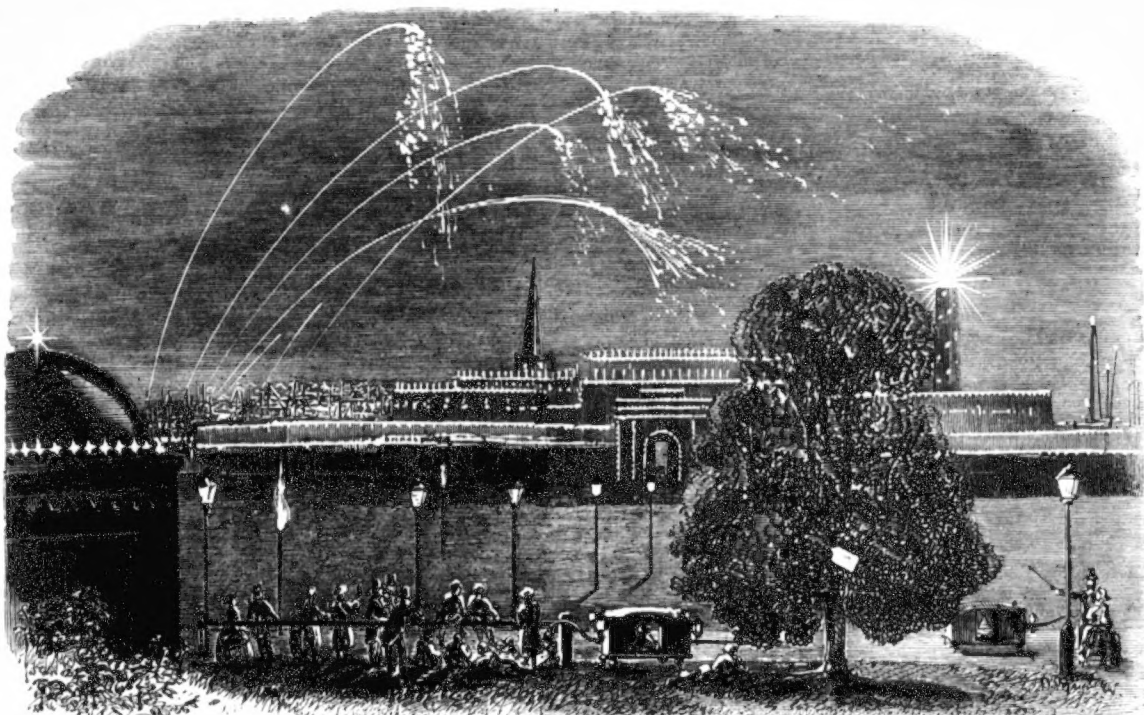
THE ARMING OF MISSISSIPPI STATE.—On a recent occasion Mr. Jefferson Davies counselled the State of Mississippi to prepare for war. The "Vicksburg Whig" gives the following inventory of the arms belonging to the State:—"Four flint-lock muskets—all rusty, and no breeches to at least two; one cannon; seven bayonets—rusty, with no points; a pile of belts and scabbards, but no swords; fifty cartridge-boxes. We have now five major-generals, ten brigadier-generals, and sixty colonels, sixty lieutenant-colonels, sixty majors, and will soon have 600 captains, 1,200 lieutenants, 4,800 sergeants, and 4,300 corporals. We are happy to inform them, however, that we have no privates—the Legislature having dispensed with that useless portion of the army."

THE ILLUMINATIONS AT CALCUTTA.

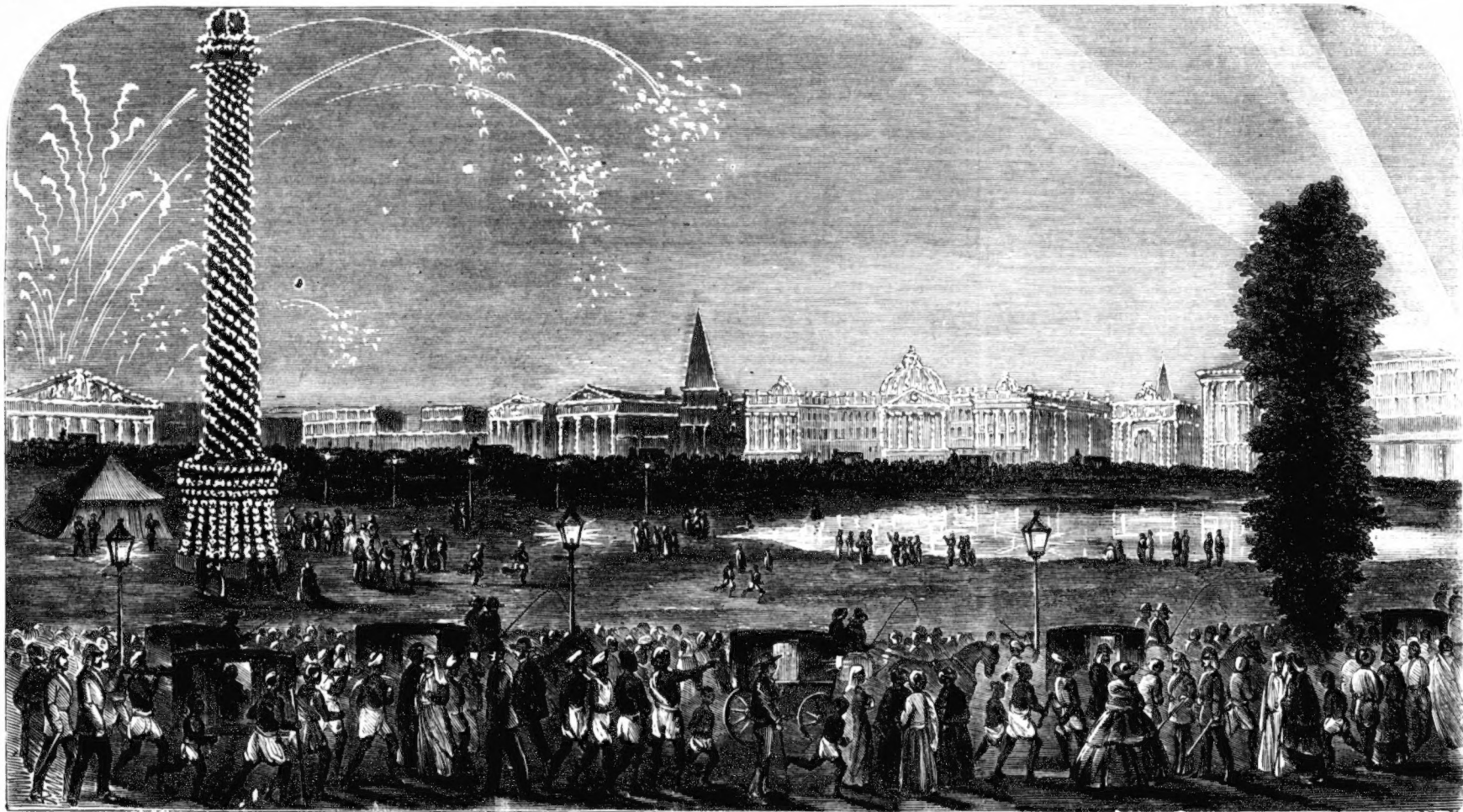
ON the 1st of November, her Majesty's proclamation to the princes, chiefs, and people of India, was read in nearly every district in India—with great demonstrations of rejoicing everywhere.

At Calcutta, as the seat of Government in India, the proclamation was celebrated with great enthusiasm—as much on the part of the natives (apparently) as of Europeans. An immense concourse of people poured into the city—Government House being, of course, the great centre of attraction. Shortly after three o'clock, the surrounding streets became almost impassable. From the Esplanade to Tank Square, the entire space was alive with a surging crowd. The proclamation was read, according to programme, at 4 p.m. The troops were all in attendance, and the public mustered in crowds. The document was read in English by Mr. Beadon, and in Bengalee by Baboo Samachun Sircar. When the reading was concluded, the Royal flag was run up at the head of a mast erected before Government House, and it was saluted by thundering cheers.

The evening was signalled by brilliant illuminations—surpassing everything that has been seen in England, we are told. One great feature of the evening was the electric light, shown from the



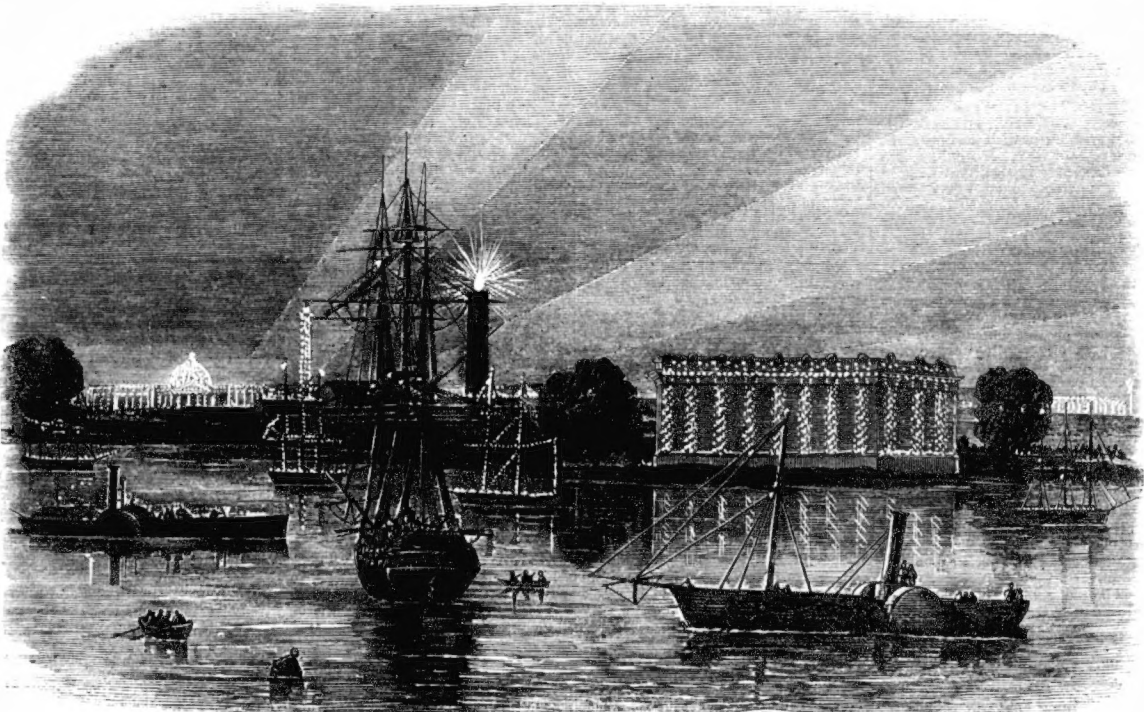
THE ILLUMINATIONS OF FORT WILLIAM, CALCUTTA, AS SEEN FROM THE CHOWRINGHEE ROAD.



BABOO GHAUT, THE OCHTERLONY MONUMENT, GOVERNMENT HOUSE, AND THE ESPLANADE.

Kirk, in Tank Square; and we can easily believe the artist to whom we are indebted for the accompanying sketches, when he says that this luminary "completely astonished the natives." "It had," he says, "a most supernatural effect, rendering darkness visible in dark rays, and light too intense to be looked at."

"To enter into minutiae would be to describe a thousand quaint devices by the gas company, and by the pyrotechnists, European and native. The Chinese with their lanterns and moving transparencies, the European shopkeepers with their illuminations and transparencies, mostly had an eye to business; and those of Wilson and Co., of the Auckland Hotel, even surpassed in splendour Government House—with 'Long live our noble Queen' in gas on the top, and beneath blazing stars and transparencies of great splendour. There was also an open exhibition of dissolving views, which, in the darkness of the night, had a good effect, and attracted a large mob. A facetious undertaker displayed a large illuminated coffin, with an obituary notice of the death of John Company. An enthusiastic Baboo had the whole first verse of 'God save the Queen' in transparencies; while a staunch individual in the vicinity of Kidderpore Docks displayed 'Loyal to the



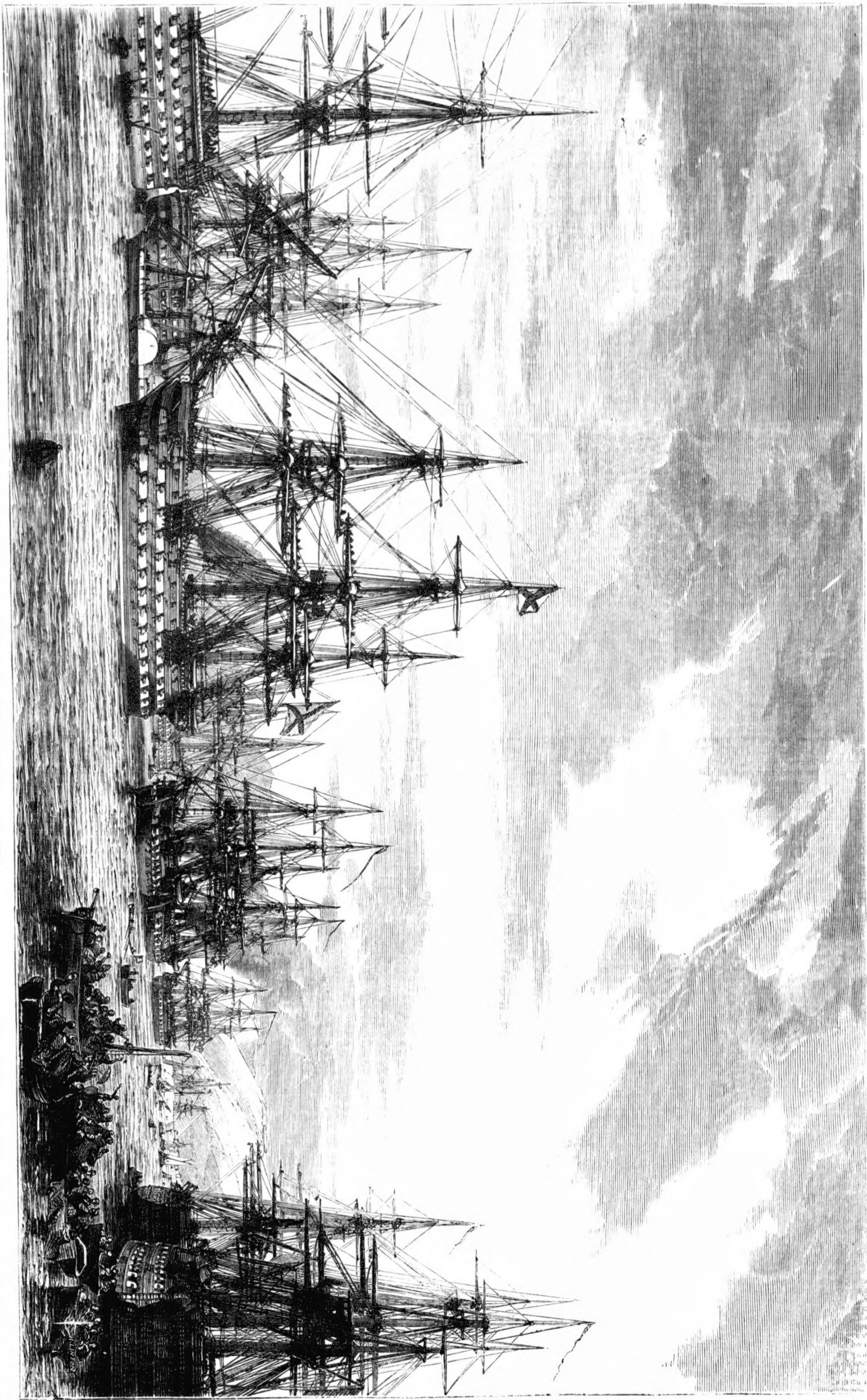
VIEW OF THE CITY, FROM BELOW PRINSEP'S GHAUT.—(FROM SKETCHES BY J. G. BRYNING.)

back-bone.' However, the electric light outshone everything. There were also beautiful illuminations upon the river amongst the shipping. But the pictures I enclose," continues our artist, "were what most struck my vision; the *coup d'œil* on the meidawn* was magnificent. In driving out of Park Street, Chowringhee, the first thing that encountered my gaze was the Fort; never did it look so immense by day—all the ramparts, barracks, and semaphore tower were illuminated. Then, turning to the north, along Chowringhee Road, the whole City of Palaces shone forth through the darkness of the night. The effect was magical. Government House, and all on the Esplanade, looked like so many palaces built of red-hot wires, displaying all the lines of architecture, and blazing with stars, rising suns, V. R.'s, and crowns, with innumerable appropriate, and some inappropriate mottoes. The Ochterlony column was a blaze of light. Baboo Ghaut, like a fairy palace, was white hot with lamps; Government House was illuminated at every point; the Bank of Bengal, the most beautiful building in Calcutta, was completely studded with lamps; and, reflecting its light in the water, was like an enchanted palace on a river of fire. "Altogether, such a scene has never been witnessed before, even by those who were present at

the Peace illuminations in London."

The illuminations at Bombay were almost equally striking. A thousand lamps and myriads of gas-jets flooded the streets with their lustre, and threw up the outlines of triumphal arches, colonnades, windows, and gables. Queen Victoria's name was everywhere—as "Queen of India, Empress of Hindostan." There were "Farewells to the East India Company," new hopes for the future of India emblazoned on more than one edifice. Crystal chandeliers were hung from house to house amidst festoons of light, and throughout the streets glaring yellow, blue, and green in the obscurity of a moonless night; crowds of people in every walk of life flaunted gaily along and enlivened the scene. The gates of the fort, the bastions, and ravelines were embroidered with flame, the ships in the harbour shone out in the darkness amid the blaze of blue lights. Bombay had never seen such a celebration, nor had its population, fond as Orientals are of glitter and glare, ever enjoyed so much of it. There were similar demonstrations at Madras, Agra, Delhi, Kurrachee, Poonah, and other presidency towns.

* The meidawn or plains, command a view of the finest buildings.



ARRIVAL OF THE GRAND DUKE CONSTANTINE AT TOULON.

THE GRAND DUKE CONSTANTINE AT TOULON.

IN a former impression we published a view of Nice, and with it some account of the Russian migration to Italy. Since then the Muscovites have been busily employed in getting their new residence at Villafrauca in order, and all the pomp of imperialism has been rehearsed in their new abode. But lately, the first stone of a Russian church was laid by the Grand Duke Constantine, amidst much ceremony. A shed covered with sails was erected on the site of the projected building, and the *élite* of Russian society at Villafrauca assembled beneath

its shelter. A correspondent says—"To describe the wondrous number of decorations exhibited by the Russian warriors present, or the amount of ingenuity displayed by Muscovite diplomats in creeping into the best places, would be beyond my power, and I never should succeed in describing the really elegant toilettes worn by the spouses of these warriors and statesmen. Around the shed were posted detachments of sailors from all the Russian vessels then at anchor in Villafrauca waters. Fine sturdy men are these Russian sailors, but they evidently have no call for their vocation."

There were present at the ceremony the Grand Duchess Catherine, whose appearance on the scene brought a courtly smile into every face. The Grand Duke Constantine was accompanied by the young Grand Duke Nicholas, a gentle youth decked out as a midshipman, and the Duke George of Mecklenburg, in all the glory of a Russian general's uniform. When all had arranged themselves according to etiquette, the president of the building committee, Prince Galitzin, read an address, which, with the hot sun, had an oppressive effect on the seamen. A collection was then made, and about £500 obtained towards the undertaking.

After a pause, the Grand Duke Constantine approached a spot where a Greek cross had been formed in the soil, and in this opening he deposited some Russian coins—an investment which completely horrified the thirsty sailors—and a written statement of the proceedings. A stone was then placed over the cross, and after the Grand Duke had given it three taps with his silver trowel, he passed the implement to his distinguished relatives, who, in succession, repeated the ceremony. The interior of the shed had been splendidly decked with flowers, while paintings, ponderous candlesticks, richly-bound missals, and other

ornaments of the Greek church, were exposed in abundance. The Grand Ducal party retired, after having kissed a cross incrusting a platinum medallion, which was presented to all present by the officiating priest.

It is generally the custom on taking a new house to pay a visit of courtesy and exchange civilities with your neighbours. This is what His Highness of Muscovy has been doing; but instead of ordering out his carriage for that purpose, he ordered out a line-of-battle ship, two frigates, and two corvettes—a very pretty establishment to keep up for a person who declares that he has no pretensions whatever. Now, the largest landed gentleman within easy distance was Louis Napoleon, and accordingly it was considered politic to show him the first attention. Accordingly, the heads of the marine vehicles were turned towards Toulon, where the Russian Duke was received with much ceremony. Our illustration shows the Muscovite division passing through the French fleet in the roadstead. From Toulon the Grand Duke paid a flying visit to Paris, where the usual courtly greetings were exchanged between the imperial cousins. His Highness is now at Palermo.

MR. ROEBUCK ON THE TOPICS OF THE DAY.

MR. ROEBUCK and Mr. Hadfield met their constituents at Sheffield on Thursday week. The meeting assembled in the Town Hall, but no sooner had Mr. Roebuck begun to speak than a score or two of persons who could not hear him raised a vehement cry for adjournment to a larger building. The meeting decided against the proposal; but the malcontents persisted, and, in spite of the appeals of the Mayor and Alderman Hoole, kept up a continuous interruption. At length Mr. Roebuck put on his hat in disgust and went away. His friends consulted, and agreed to meet again at once in the Temperance Hall. This was soon filled, and now order prevailing, Mr. Roebuck said what he had to say. First he went into the theory of the constitution to show that Parliaments were invented to watch Governments, and constitutions to watch Parliaments. Then he asserted that the working classes were excluded by the bill of 1832, and that since that time a new bill had been called for. "But," said he, "an imposition will be practised upon you. After reform the House of Commons will remain what it is."

"The more there are two things to be considered—first, the franchise, and next the distribution. We ought to ascertain who are to have votes, and next the area of persons who shall return representatives to Parliament, thereby, as I believe, entirely overturning the landed aristocracy of this country. I don't blink the question. There it is."

The House of Commons represents the feelings and passions of the people fairly and well, but not their interests. The nobles and gentry are in a position of great temptation and ought to be relieved. He did not want universal suffrage, but he would like to see members taken from boroughs having less than 10,000 inhabitants and given to the large towns—four to Sheffield, for instance. He hoped a reformed Parliament would give economical government. The £10 householders have only increased the expenditure. He wanted to see a change in the composition of administration—no monopoly.

"Take any locality you please. You want a representative—you look about and find a well-to-do man more than fifty years of age, and you send him headlong into an assembly of critics, the most acute that the world ever saw, with feelings alive to everything ludicrous. The man gets up. He makes an attempt at a speech, and is laughed at. He perhaps leaves out an 'h,' and a shout of derision runs through the House directly. Down he sits, and his mouth is closed for ever. That accounts in a great measure for what you must have all remarked, that you are not represented in the House of Commons in a way to give you the weight you ought to have. The wealth, the industry, the intelligence, the acuteness of the north—are they to be found in your representatives in the House of Commons? No. Does London, that great mart of the whole world, send Members who are an honour to the House of Commons? I say, no. Well, then, I ask, what can you possibly expect from a reformed House of Commons if you do not prepare men to go into that House capable of discharging their duty as your representatives, and not merely rich men that all their lives have been engaged in the accumulation of wealth, and who know as much about government as I do about China? You must send fit men to represent you."

Mr. Roebuck took a very lugubrious view of foreign politics; and intimated his opinion that not reform but war would be the question of the session—"we are on the eve of war." This view was evidently suggested by the attitude of France. He said:—

"With France as a people let us be in alliance. She is a gallant and great nation, and has been a light to mankind, as we have been; but she has not set an example of good government. We have seen constitutional government in France trodden out by the hard heel of an unblinking despot. Constitutional government has been put down, England has been insulted, and every possible attempt has been made by that despot to ally himself with the Powers of Europe, tyrannical as they are. Depend upon it, the pretence now made of aiding and assisting Italy is a mere pretence to march down his pretorian hordes upon that great country. He will erect in the place of the eagle of Austria the eagle of France. I have no faith in a man who has perjured on his lips. I recollect, when at Cherbourg, seeing the Emperor of the French visit the Queen of England. It was a great sight. Everything was there to excite and rouse the buoyant spirits of men. I saw that man mount the steps which led to our noble Queen's vessel, and when I saw his perjured lips upon her hallowed cheek my blood rushed to my heart to think of that holy and good creature being defiled by the lips of a perjured despot. The sight which I then beheld was a type of England. She was in alliance with this despot—she, the great light of mankind, whose writers, philosophers, whose mechanics, every man of us, have been working in the great cause of humanity. I say at once, that rather than be the ally—the active ally—of a despot like Louis Napoleon, I would at once break away from him."

Mr. Hadfield, who had come to make a speech about reform, was disconcerted by the disturbance of the morning and the warlike blaze of his colleague. He made a speech crammed with statistics to show that reform is needed and that the people are fit for it.

MR. HORSMAN AT STROUD.

MR. HORSMAN made a speech at Stroud last week. It was remarkable for some expressions and a peculiar kind of figurative language used in describing the incidents of last session; for its denunciations of our dear "ally," the French Emperor, and its comments on the conduct of the Liberals. Of Lord Palmerston he said—

"If he failed it was because he had not capable colleagues. There is not a more popular man in the House. There is more English pluck and 'go' in him than in any half-dozen of those who, having once made him their idol, would now turn him into their scape-goat. The fact is that the disunion and disorganisation of the Liberal party were plain enough before Lord Palmerston's Government was ever formed."

Mr. Horsman argued at considerable length against electoral districts and universal suffrage, which would be class representation. How long would a House of Commons elected on universal suffrage act in unanimity with the House of Lords? (A voice—"We don't want no House of Lords.") That was exactly what he anticipated, and having got rid of one of their great fundamental institutions, would they next depose the Queen? He also had a fling at our ally:—

"They were told that France was our dear, our affectionate, our invaluable ally; but that invaluable alliance had dragged us through the dirt in the Crimea, at Naples, at Rome, and in Belgium; and lately, he was afraid, it had made us out a good deal of dirt in Portugal. Our dear ally hated liberty everywhere, and more especially in England. He was the arbiter of nations, and peace or war hung upon his fiat. With an army the greatest in Europe, and a powerful navy, his dockyards and arsenals were as busy as if he had never built a ship, and he was doubling his military force in the vicinity of our colonial possessions. All these preparations pointed to war with a great maritime Power; foreign nations concurred in the belief that it must be war with his dear ally England; and we were obliged to keep up our army and navy in full force, lest some fine morning we should find our 'dear ally' paying us a visit more surprising than pleasant. As to alliances, he would say, Have no intimate alliances except with the friends of liberty, who have a common interest, common objects, and common sympathies with ourselves."

The meeting resolved that it wanted household suffrage in towns, £10 suffrage in counties, equal electoral districts, and the ballot; but that it had confidence in Mr. Horsman.

MR. BRIGHT'S SPEECH AT BRADFORD.

MR. BRIGHT addressed a public meeting of the inhabitants of Bradford on Monday evening, in St. George's Hall, on the subject of Parliamentary Reform.

The hall, capable of accommodating between 4,000 and 5,000 persons, was densely crowded. The platform was occupied by leading merchants and manufacturers of Bradford, and by deputations from most of the principal towns in the West Riding of Yorkshire. Mr. Henry Brown, the Mayor, presided, and when Mr. Bright entered the hall he was received with loud and prolonged cheering.

A resolution having been passed, "gratefully recognising Mr. Bright's eminent services in the great struggle for the repeal of the Corn Laws," and welcoming him to Bradford on his first visit since the triumphant issue of that conflict,—

Mr. Bright rose and addressed the assembly. He began by complaining of the hostility of the press toward him, and then passed on to the subject of the evening—Parliamentary Reform, and his own proposals to extend it. He decidedly objected to what might be called "fancy franchises,"—franchises given, not so much with reference to those they include, as with reference to those they exclude.

"My main objection to the franchise as it now exists is, that while it is distributed with considerable freedom among all other classes of society, it is fixed at a point which necessarily excludes the most numerous class of all. The occupiers of £10 houses do not generally receive wages from week to week or from fortnight to fortnight. It is a fact that the Reform Bill of 1832 does so exclude the great wages-receiving class of the kingdom, and that exclusion I maintain to be an injury to all other honest classes and an enormous grievance to the class which it more immediately affects. It is not in the least necessary that every body should vote, but it is necessary, for the satisfaction of common sense and justice, that the franchise should be fairly, and with such equality as we can arrive at, be distributed among all classes of the people who are called upon to obey the law. Do you fear that you would have violence in your streets? You may have heard, for I have told the story before, that when it was proposed to confer two members upon Leeds and to establish a £10 franchise, a banker declared that it would be no longer safe to have a bank in that town, and that if the proposal were carried out he would be obliged to remove his establishment. All the talk of violence and turbulence by men who possess votes arises from an ignorance that is positively incomprehensible. I always thought that a vote was a symbol of moral as opposed to physical force. I always imagined that when a man was entitled to record his vote in favour of a particular candidate the idea of violence vanished from his mind, and the club dropped, as it were, from his helpless hands."

But when all those who are fairly entitled to a vote have got it, it becomes a question of interest to know whether they shall proceed to the exercise of their right as we have done in past times, or whether they shall have whatever security, whatever shelter from influence and from menace, can be afforded by the adoption of vote by ballot.

"In almost every country in the world, where a representative system exists, the ballot is the mode of voting that is practised. I am satisfied from no little experience during the last twenty years in parliamentary elections, that I should be conferring no advantage whatever upon my fellow-countrymen who are now unfranchised if I could give them the vote without giving them with it the protection of the ballot. I have not the smallest doubt of the passing of the ballot within a short period. There are now in the House of Commons more than 230 I forget how many more, members who have voted for the ballot; and I am as satisfied as one can be of anything that has yet to come, and I believe I express only the opinion of every intelligent man in the House of Commons when I say it, that the ballot is at this moment almost within the reach of the constituencies of the United Kingdom."

As to the scheme of Reform which the Government is preparing, Mr. Bright professed to know nothing; at the same time he was willing to take the opportunity of stating that no single step which he had taken with regard to the subject had been influenced in the slightest degree by hostility to the Government of Lord Derby. But—

"It is possible for the Government, or for anybody else, to propose that all the little boroughs which everybody now admits ought not to return members to Parliament, should still retain their right to return them, with the addition of two or three country parishes the population of which, added to the population of such a little borough, should make what would appear a sufficient constituency to send a representative or representatives to the House of Commons. . . . Now, the Reform Bill of 1832 gave sixty-three seats to the boroughs, and I think sixty-five to the counties, and I believe generally from that time to this that there has been a feeling among all those who are in favour of reform that the Reform Bill gave too large an influence to the counties and the landed interest in the distribution of members which is made by it. I wish you and your countrymen everywhere to watch this point with the keenest eye possible—to repudiate without mercy any bill of any Government, whatever its franchise, whatever its seeming concession, if it does not allot the seats obtained from the extinction of the small boroughs mainly among the great city and town population of the kingdom."

Mr. Bright then came to his own scheme of Reform, which he thus expounded:—

"I propose to disfranchise all boroughs—56 in number—under 8,000 inhabitants. Of these boroughs, 25 return one member, and 31 return two members, and the whole schedule of these 56 boroughs includes 87 seats or more. Then to step on to populations of 16,000, and to say that all boroughs having less than that number should henceforth only have one member. This will yield 34 seats to be added to the other 87, and if we add four more seats for the two corrupt boroughs of St. Albans and Sudbury, which were some years ago disfranchised, we shall have a grand result, as far as England and Wales alone are concerned, of 125 seats to dispose of. I proposed to explain to you how these seats should be allotted, which, after all, is the pith of the whole question. There are a number of boroughs whose population is between 16,000 and 25,000, some of which have one member, and I think, about 12 or 13 have two members. Not wishing to make any more change than appears to be necessary, I propose to leave this class of boroughs precisely as they are. I begin, then, at the limit of 25,000 inhabitants, and I give to every borough having above that amount of population, and now sending only one member an additional seat, until I come up to populations of 54,000. I will read to you the names of the boroughs comprised in that list. They are Gateshead, Walsall, Monmouth, Chatham, South Shields, Rochdale, Tynemouth and North Shields, Ashton-under-Lyne, Huddersfield, Leith, Bury, Cheltenham, Greenock, Dudley, Swansea, and Paisley. Now, under my plan all these places would return two members. When I get to a population of 54,000 I take a step upwards, and proceed with the list of boroughs that should henceforth return three members, and they are these:—Bath, Nottingham, Leicester, Bolton, Sunderland, Norwich, Preston, Brighton, Portsmouth, Oldham, Sike-upon-Trent, Bradford, Greenwich, and Wolverhampton. There are 14 boroughs, all of which would under this scheme return three members to Parliament. We come next to four boroughs which ought to be included in that list, but which, at present, return only one member—viz., Merthyr Tydvil, in Wales; Salford, in Lancashire; the city of Aberdeen; and the town of Dundee, in Scotland. These boroughs bring me up from 54,000 to 135,000. Beginning at 135,000, and going up to double that number, which is 270,000, I propose that nine boroughs shall hereafter return four members. They are Sheffield, Bristol, Leeds, Southwark, Birmingham, Westminster, Lambeth, and the Tower Hamlets, which I propose to divide, its population being so enormous, into two complete boroughs—to each of which four members shall be given. Then I come to a list which comprises five cities or boroughs, of the very largest in the kingdom, and entitled to exercise a very powerful influence upon the government of the country. They are the boroughs of Manchester, Finsbury, Marylebone, Liverpool, and Glasgow, having a population at the last census of more than 316,000, and now, doubtless, of 400,000. I propose to give to each of these five boroughs six members of Parliament. Well, then there comes the question of the new boroughs. Of these, five are to have one member each—Gravesend, Leamington, Staleybridge, Burnley, and Birkenhead. Then there are the parishes of Chelsea and Kensington, in West London. Their population is so large and so rapidly increasing, that I think they ought to have two boroughs, and that they ought to have two members each. These few boroughs, therefore, will absorb nine members."

As to the Scotch burghs, he proposed to break up the larger groups, and add an additional member. Thus:—

"From the Stirlingshire group I select the boroughs of Dunfermline and Inverkeithing to return one member; Hamilton, Lanark, and Linlithgow are to be taken from the Falkirk burghs, and given one member; Dumbar-ton, Port-Glasgow, Renfrew, and Rutherglen are to be taken from the Kilmarnock burghs, and to have one member; and the towns of Arbroath and Brechin are to be taken from the Montrose burghs, and to return one member."

Then as to the distribution of members as regards counties—

"I shall give to the West Riding of Yorkshire four additional members—to the North Riding of Yorkshire one, to North Lancashire one, to South

Devon one, and to the rest that I shall read over one:—The West Kent, South Stafford, West Cornwall, North Essex, South Essex, West Norfolk, East Somerset, West Somerset, and that portion of Lincolnshire which is known by the name of the Parts of Lindsey. Now, these have been selected on account of their great population, and because within them there has grown up not only a large population, but very large interests that are not exclusively connected with the land."

The Irish boroughs occasioned Mr. Bright some difficulty, out of which he proposed to escape however, by the following plan.

"I have proposed that nine of the little boroughs (whose average number of electors is only 1573), should be disfranchised, and six of their members distributed in this way—two to the city of Dublin, and one each to the town of Belfast and the town of Kilkenny, and the cities of Limerick and Cork. Then, looking at the vast population of many of the Irish counties, I propose to give from the boroughs of England five new members, which, added to the three saved from these disfranchised boroughs, will give one member each to six of the principal Irish counties, and two members to the county of Cork, which may be termed the Yorkshire of Ireland."

And there Mr. Bright's propositions—which he said were founded on property and the rate of taxation as well as population—ended. His speech was not ended, however, till he had exclaimed against the House of Peers, which he said represented one interest only—the land; that, in the eye of the constitution, was the object of the lords sitting in that House. He did not question their right to sit there:—

"They do sit there by law; they sit there by the consent of the people of this country, and I am not proposing to disturb them. But they sit in a house by themselves, and what is the result? Representing one great interest, and one only, they have infinite power in the defence of the rights or privileges or monopolies of that interest; they have ten times more power than if they sat with us in the House of Commons, for you cannot pass the smallest law of any kind but it must go through them, and they have as absolute a vote upon it by the constitution as the House of Commons itself. . . . If the House of Lords is to be a representation of all the great interests of the country, and not of the land exclusively, where would you find Mr. Titus Salt, and Mr. Crossley, but sitting there as the barons, the marquises, the dukes—nay, the princes, of manufacture and commerce? I don't wish to open this question. I am so far Conservative as to retain the institutions which I find in my time, so long as they can be made to work without obvious and serious detriment to the interest of the empire. Let us go on with the House of Lords by all means; but let us have a real representation in the House of Commons."

At the close of Mr. Bright's speech, a resolution was passed,—

"That this meeting is assured that the public opinion of the country is ripe for a large and comprehensive measure of reform that will include the admission of £10 occupiers to the county franchise; the establishment of household suffrage in boroughs, vote by ballot, and a more equitable distribution of representatives to population; and pledges itself to use all constitutional means to procure the passing of a measure through Parliament in the ensuing session that shall embrace those points."

Mr. Bright still further explained the details of his measure on Tuesday, at a "conference" held at Bradford, and at which many influential persons attended. He confined himself, for the most part, to an explanation of the principles upon which he had based his proposed re-distribution of seats. He stated that his reason for not equalising the county with the borough franchise was, that in purely agricultural districts the labouring classes manifested no interest whatever in political questions. He urged very strongly that the people should back up their demand for reform by a continuous holding of public meetings, and by "a grand organisation" of petitions. He suggested that a general association should be formed in the West Riding of Yorkshire, having its auxiliaries in every town and populous neighbourhood. In conclusion he stated that he had in view the preparation of a clause to enable lodgers to place their names on the register as electors. A resolution was unanimously adopted in favour of the immediate formation of such an association, and branch associations, as Mr. Bright had suggested.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1859.

MR. BRIGHT'S REFORM BILL.

It is certainly in Mr. Bright's favour that he should have so frankly brought his measure before the public at a time when the Whigs by choice, and the Government of necessity, preserve the profoundest silence as to their intentions. It is too soon yet to say "yes" or "no" to any one measure, because, till Parliament meets, nobody can tell whether a better one may not be forthcoming. But that the country may gradually prepare itself for the discussion, we shall to-day lay before our readers a brief analysis of Mr. Bright's bill. He disclaims all party motives in the matter; has "no hostility to Lord Derby's Government," and (we may presume) is not unwilling to support any other measure which may approximate to, without embodying the whole of, his views. In short, he sees the great danger; which is, that the Whig nobles, uniting with the timid of all sections of opinion, may ride into office on a sham reform bill with their old oligarchical and personal motives.

In the first place, Mr. Bright has made a great concession, welcome to constitutional reformers like ourselves. He does not insist on "electoral districts." He accepts the historic division of England into county and borough, as the natural basis of the constitution, to be respected in all change and reform.

Starting from this important principle, he will add and alter in a way which is more a continuation of previous reforms than an innovation on precedents.

And first, with regard to additions to the constitution. These are of two kinds: additions to the number of seats; additions to the number of electors.

With regard to the first, Mr. Bright proposes to give additional members to large towns, as, for example, six members each to Liverpool and Manchester, to Glasgow, to Finsbury, and to Marylebone. This is recommended on the ground of the property and population of those cities and districts. Each of these, says Mr. Bright, had a population (last census) of 316,000, and may be assumed now to have 400,000. After these, come places next to them according to this standard, like Sheffield, Bristol, Leeds, Southwark, Birmingham, &c. These Mr. Bright would endow with four members each. He next advances to boroughs, deserving (on the same principle) their three members, of which are Bath, Nottingham, Leicester, Bolton, Sunderland, and others. Boroughs of 16,000 to 25,000 population, now returning some one, and a few two members, he proposes to leave as they are. Several new boroughs he would call into existence, of which Gravesend, Leamington, and Birkenhead may stand as specimens. In short, Mr. Bright will dispose of the mass of seats to be disposed of, by bestowing them among large towns and boroughs. His whole measure contemplates the strengthening of the town interests and town ideas in the House of Commons.

But let us now see how he obtains the seats (estimated at 125) of which we have sketched the disposal. The first step towards this is the confiscation of all those which do not represent a population of 8,000. The next step is the cutting off one member from places of 16,000, which at present return two. The principle is still the same—that of making numbers the main test; and the places extinguished or mutilated will be what are socially called the "country towns," as distinct from "cities," i. e., places where the existence of some branch of commerce or manufacture calls together a great aggregation of people. We shall not go on this occasion into the question of Scotch boroughs, which there will be ample opportunities of discussing by and by.

Mr. Bright's first care is for the towns. But he is not indifferent to counties where influences of an urban or civic character exist; and he wishes to give four additional members to the West Riding and South Lancashire; also two additional members to places like the North Riding, West Kent, South Staffordshire, and so forth. Here the object of the change is similar to that which inspires Mr. Bright's borough reform; that is, to strengthen the influence of trade as against land, of money as against associations and traditions. The details might be infinitely discussed, but this is the essence of his measure, which is all we have to do with to-day.

So much for the general character of his changes in the matter of seats. Now for his changes in the matter of electors.

We are not quite sure that we understand Mr. Bright's indifference to "fancy franchises." He does not like giving votes on the ground of superior education or superior moral character—to professional men or savings bank depositors. This is intelligible enough. But why call these "fancy franchises," since the influences they represent are matters of fact, and elements of the stability of the kingdom?

The suffrage which Mr. Bright favours is that known as the "rating suffrage," but without the limitations applied to the principle by the parochial system. His measure would thus take in (as he intimates) "the wages class;" and as he already assumes that it is the towns which are to be strengthened by his Bill, the wages class, we may be sure, are to be called in to vote for the capitalist class. At this point, the ballot is seen to be necessary, to protect the voter from the capitalist; and, indeed, we cannot conceive a Bill like Mr. Bright's passing without the ballot. If great numbers of the labouring class are to be made voters in the way he proposes, we think that it is inevitable that they will require that protection.

But for the present our object is only to show, in a brief space, the drift and tendency of the Bill, and having made these so far apparent, we shall go more largely into the subject by and by.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY will open Parliament in person. According to present arrangements, the Queen and the Prince Consort and Court propose leaving Windsor Castle on Wednesday, the 2nd proximo, for Buckingham Palace.

THE QUEEN has handed £100 to the Bishop of London, as a donation to the funds of the Metropolitan Relief Association.

THE ANSWER TO THE SPEECH from the Throne will be moved in the House of Commons by the Honourable Charles Trefusis, member for North Devon, and seconded by Mr. Bescroft, member for Leeds.

THE EARL OF DERBY will give a Parliamentary dinner to a party of Peers on the 2nd of February. The Lord President of the Privy Council will give a dinner, on the 29th inst., to the Cabinet Ministers and the great Officers of State of the Queen's Household.

THE COURT OF PROBATE has granted letters of administration of the property possessed by the late Duchess of Orleans in this country, to her son the Count de Paris, and also to the late Queen of the French on behalf of the Duke de Chartres. The judge suggested that the Count de Paris should elect his grandmother as his guardian. The Queen's Advocate said that he had no doubt "his Royal Highness" would adopt that suggestion.

THE CARRIAGE OF THE DUKE OF ARGYLL came into collision with another, in Glasgow, and the pole coming through the panel, struck his Grace on the head; he was not much hurt.

THE LITTLE PRINCE IMPERIAL OF FRANCE was playing, the other day, in the gardens of Grand-mère Montijo, when some ladies, well known to him, ran up as usual to kiss and fondle him; but the little heir-apparent, doubtless under instruction, astonished them by throwing himself into an attitude, and holding out his "hand" for their salute.

A "TORTOISE-SHELL TOM CAT" was put up for sale by auction a few days ago at Norwich. The bidding went up to £12, but the lady who owned it had refused an offer of £20, so she bid twelve guineas, and bought it in.

THE PORTUGUESE HOUSE OF PEERS has passed the bill, indemnifying the Ministry for its conduct in delivering the Charles-Georges on the demand of the French Government; 34,000 francs has been paid to France as indemnification.

MR. ACKERMAN, the well-known publisher, of the Strand, committed suicide, a few days ago, by taking prussic acid. A letter was found, from which it appeared he had previously tried to poison himself.

THE EDITOR OF THE "GREENOCK ADVERTISER" has received a letter, the writer of which says:—"As the responsible proprietor of an influential newspaper, you are fulfilling your destiny. When you lent your aid, through the medium of the press, to promote the interests of the new theatre, may God have mercy on your soul. Prepare to meet him, for surely the time is short!"

CONNOR, a private in the 6th Regiment, was hung, on the 4th, at Gibraltar, for the murder of Sergeant Taylor, by shooting him with a rifle; none of the inhabitants were suffered to be present.

CAPTAIN STEEL, of the 17th Lancers, has been exonerated from all the charges brought against him by Captain Flamank, of the transport ship Bombay.

MR. BAZLEY, M.P., has been presented with a testimonial by the members of the Chamber of Commerce and Manufacturers. It consists of a very handsome silver candelabra, which can also be used as an epergne.

NEW GRANADA has been much excited in consequence of the passage of a law compelling all Dissenters to pay tithes to the Catholic Church.

THE NUMBER OF THOSE WHO WERE POISONED BY EATING THE LOZENGES with which arsenic was mixed, at Bradford, is now known to be 223, of whom eighteen have died. Five or six others are still suffering from the effects of the poison, and the recovery of two of them is doubtful. 136 were adults.

AN AMERICAN THIEF was being taken to prison, when he begged and obtained permission to kiss his wife. As their lips parted, the officer thought he saw something glisten in the woman's mouth, and, on examination, found a valuable watch seal, which the husband, in the operation of kissing, had transferred from his mouth to hers.

EIGHTEEN-POUNDER FIELD BATTERIES are to be provided at Gravesend and Tilbury, and notices have been issued for tenders to construct gun sheds for the same.

A NEW SECT OF CHRISTIANS has sprung up on the Continent, called "Transmigrationists." They profess to believe in the Hindoo doctrine to a certain extent, and have printed some curious arguments to prove that such doctrines are not irreconcilable with Christianity.

THE BISHOP OF ST. ASAPH was lying on a sofa at his palace, when a large picture dropped from its hanging upon his head, and inflicted a serious wound, dividing the skin, and penetrating the flesh nearly to the skull bone.

A PRIZE DANCE came off in a saloon at Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, between an Irishman and a mulatto girl. The girl danced seven hours and the Irishman eight, winning the prize—ten dollars.

STEPS HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN AT BRADFORD to prepare for the next meeting of the Association for the Promotion of Social Science, which will be held in that populous town. The leading local citizens are bestirring themselves in the most energetic manner; and £1,400 has been already subscribed to meet the expenses.

THE "PARIS UNIVERS" leads its readers to hope for the early conversion to Catholicism of the Queen of England and her Court!

MR. PEARSON HILL, of the General Post-office, son of Mr. Rowland Hill, left London for the Mauritius, by the last mail, having been selected by the Postmaster-General, on the request of the Governor, for the purpose of reorganising the postal arrangements of the colony.

CARDINAL WISEMAN received the Grand Cross of Malta from the Grand Master, Count Collorato, on the 7th instant. The ceremony was performed at his residence, 8, York Place, some of the nobility and gentry being present.

THE HOUSES BETWEEN ST. DUNSTON'S CHURCH and MESSRS. PRARD'S, in Fleet Street, the bankers, are in course of demolition to widen the footpath. The house recently occupied by Mr. Waller, the well-known autograph and book collector, was, it is supposed, built in the reign of Henry VII. Mr. Waller resided there many years.

THE PRINCE OF WALES will journey to Rome by way of Munich, Innsbruck, Trent, Verona, Mantua, and Bologna. It is expected that he will return to England in July.

THE DEAN OF ST. PAUL'S advertises that he is unable to attend to the numerous applications made to him by strangers for admission to the special services at the cathedral. The reserved seats are few (about 150), exclusive of those for the choir, and are mostly kept for those who have aided the dean and chapter by liberal contributions, or by personal service.

THE KING OF NAPLES has at length permitted Madame Ristori to play in his capital city, it seems.

THE "MUSEN-ALMANACK," or Calendar of the Muses, for the year 1859, was published in Germany lately. To this single volume of rhyme, no fewer than one hundred and nineteen poets have contributed, at the head of whom stands the veteran songster Moritz Arndt.

THE FEUILLETON OF THE PARIS "MONITEUR" contains a very favourable notice of Miss Thompson, the young Glasgow girl, who carried off the first prize at the Conservatoire, and has lately made a successful debut at the Grand Opera in "William Tell." Her voice is described as "a very fine soprano, one of those telling voices which gain immensely by the vast amplitude of the arena of the Opera House, which it fills easily."

A YOUNG ESQUIMAUX WOMAN, lately brought from the icy regions, has just died at Aberdeen. She was active and intelligent; but a change of climate and food, including, perhaps, too many luxuries, has been fatal.

MR. WILLIAM BROWN, one of the members for the southern division of Lancashire, has intimated his intention to resign his seat in the House of Commons after the dissolution of the present Parliament.

CARDINAL WISEMAN proposes to deliver a lecture in Liverpool, on either the 26th or 27th instant, for the benefit of the Catholic Institute. The subject selected is, "Is the present education of the poor of a sufficiently practical character, or can this be imparted to it?"

THE SECOND VOLUME of Mr. Henry Buckle's "History of Civilisation" is announced.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

ON Wednesday se'night the subscribers to the proposed Dramatic College met in full conclave at the Adelphi Theatre, and there officially renounced the gift of land originally offered to them by Mr. Henry Dodd. This gentleman, who a few weeks ago was mentioned in several of the public journals—more especially in those recognised as the organs of the theatrical world—as "H. Dodd, Esq.," and "the benevolent Mr. Dodd," now stands forth as "Dodd, the dustman;" and he himself, his land, and his offer are all at a discount. In the present state of reported matters it is impossible correctly to adjudicate between the contending parties—Mr. Dodd's friends asserting roundly that had the proposed donor's letter of the 20th of July been read at the public meeting held on the 21st at the Princess's, for which purpose it was written, subsequent misunderstandings could not have occurred; while these misunderstandings would have been removed, had the same parties been enabled to gain admission to and set forth their rights at the public meeting so recently held at the Adelphi. But from all I can gather, the opponents of Mr. Dodd, with singular dullness, have never yet made public their chief ground of opposition to his stipulations, which stipulations not merely consisted of his right to nominate an inmate to the College, and (naturally enough) the connection of its founder's name with so praiseworthy an institute, but required that all its members should be members of the Established Church, should attend Divine service at certain specified times, should be compelled to be within walls at certain specified hours, and contained various other clauses more or less arbitrary! Should this statement prove true, the committee undoubtedly had grounds for declining to adopt Mr. Dodd's proposition, and acted wisely in so doing. Apart from this squabble, it must be really gratifying to all who love the stage to see the *esprit de corps* exhibited by the professionals, and the generous support which the scheme has received from gentlemen who have an interest in the theatrical world. No sooner was Mr. Dodd's falling-off made known, than, as we learn from the reported speeches in the "Era," one gentleman generously, though ungrammatically, exclaimed—"There's my fifty guineas;" while a second, equally lavish, and with an equal scorn of Lindley Murray, ejaculated—"I will make another fifty." Joking apart, these generous offers are worthy of the highest commendation. Eloquence is not given to all men; and I may have been unnecessarily ribald in my comments on former proceedings in connection with this matter; but stammering words, followed by good deeds, are of greater use than the most fluent rhetoric; and the Lounger takes off his hat in admiration of the generosity of the public—baronets and all—and of the respect which the actors and actresses have shown to themselves, to each other, and to their profession.

The "Saturday Review" has always been particularly nice in its own composition, not to say particularly nasty in its gibes at the composition of other journals. I look through the last number of the "Saturday," and I find it by no means so painfully and priggishly precise as usual—which, on the whole, I take to be a hopeful sign. In an article on Mr. Bright occurs the following sentence:—"If they [certain constituencies] choose to perish by his hand, it is not our business to interfere between them and the pleasures of suicide." The next paper staggers heavily under the weight of having nothing remarkable to say, and two columns to say it in, anent the Eastern question; and, without positively violating sense or grammar, it leaves a vague impression that a feeble argument has somehow been stupidly and ungrammatically handled. In one very sleepy passage, for example, the phrase "at the expense of" occurs twice, with nothing whatever that can possibly justify the repetition. In an article on Foreign Correspondents, the plural word *dilettanti* is applied to "a collector of gossip and maker-up of nothings." The editor of the "Saturday Review" will allow

that, if one of the following sentences be right in point of syntax, the other must as certainly be wrong:—

"For he is just one of those artists who gain," &c., &c.—Article on Charles Keen.

"One of the most singular announcements that ever was made."—Article on Douglas Jerrold.

Perhaps the editor will go the length of positively deciding that the sentence which is wrong is the last. Of all the "singular announcements" that ever "was" made, surely, oh surely! the most singular will be that the "Saturday Review" is declining into slip-slop. I must add that the good article of last week's "Saturday Review"—a richly comic article on Mr. Tupper's new novel, "Stephan Langton"—is evidently written by an Irishman, who, towards the latter part, has been allowed to use "would" for "should" in the most reckless and un-"Saturday Review"-like manner.

Two recent changes in journalism should be noticed. The "Daily News" offers to regular subscribers for six months, a reduction of 40 per cent., thereby, in effect, bringing down its price to 2½d. The "Spectator," which has much declined in power and originality since Mr. Rintoul's death, has reduced its price from 9d. to 6d., and has come into the hands of Mr. Thornton Hunt, so long connected with it as sub-editor and contributor. The veteran Leigh Hunt is to give occasional essays in it, one of which appeared last week.

Mr. George Alexander Hamilton, the member for the Dublin University, and Secretary to the Treasury, succeeds Mr. Trevelyan, the Assistant Treasurer. He gives up the higher post for the lower. The reason for this descending is obvious. The Secretary to the Treasury goes out with a retiring government: the office of Assistant Treasurer is permanent. Mr. Hamilton is not a wealthy man, and therefore prefers the inferior permanent office to the superior temporary one. Mr. Hamilton first came into Parliament in 1832. He contested the city of Dublin against Daniel O'Connell, and was beaten, but was seated on petition after an investigation which lasted fourteen months. In 1837 he fought, and lost again, but was elected for the University in 1842. The Honourable Gentleman is a Conservative; was Secretary to the Treasury in 1852, and having faithfully adhered to the Conservative cause during the whole of his parliamentary career, at last receives this permanent and respectable post as his reward. He is an exceedingly kind, amiable, and courteous gentleman, and very industrious withal, and the numerous officials at the Treasury will have no reason to regret the change. It has been reported that Mr. Wilson coveted the place, and would have had it if the Whigs could have found any promotion for Mr. Trevelyan. Mr. Wilson, however, considering his antecedents, has not done badly by taking to politics. He is a member of Parliament, has a handsome pension, and prospects.

Sir Stafford Northcote, who is to succeed Mr. Hamilton, calls himself "a liberal progressive Conservative;" a very elastic appellation, that will comprehend every sort of policy. It is like a patent square-mouthed carpet-bag, which looks well with only a clean shirt in it, and yet will carry a wardrobe. Sir Stafford sat below the gangway. He frequently addressed the house, but never with much effect. His employments have been of a somewhat varied character. He is a barrister by profession; was once private secretary to Mr. Gladstone; is, or was, captain of a troop of yeoman cavalry; and wrote one of the essays on Civil Service Examination, which were published in a blue book two years ago. Sir Stafford is not popular with the civil service. It is apprehended that there is too much of the martinet about him to be agreeable.

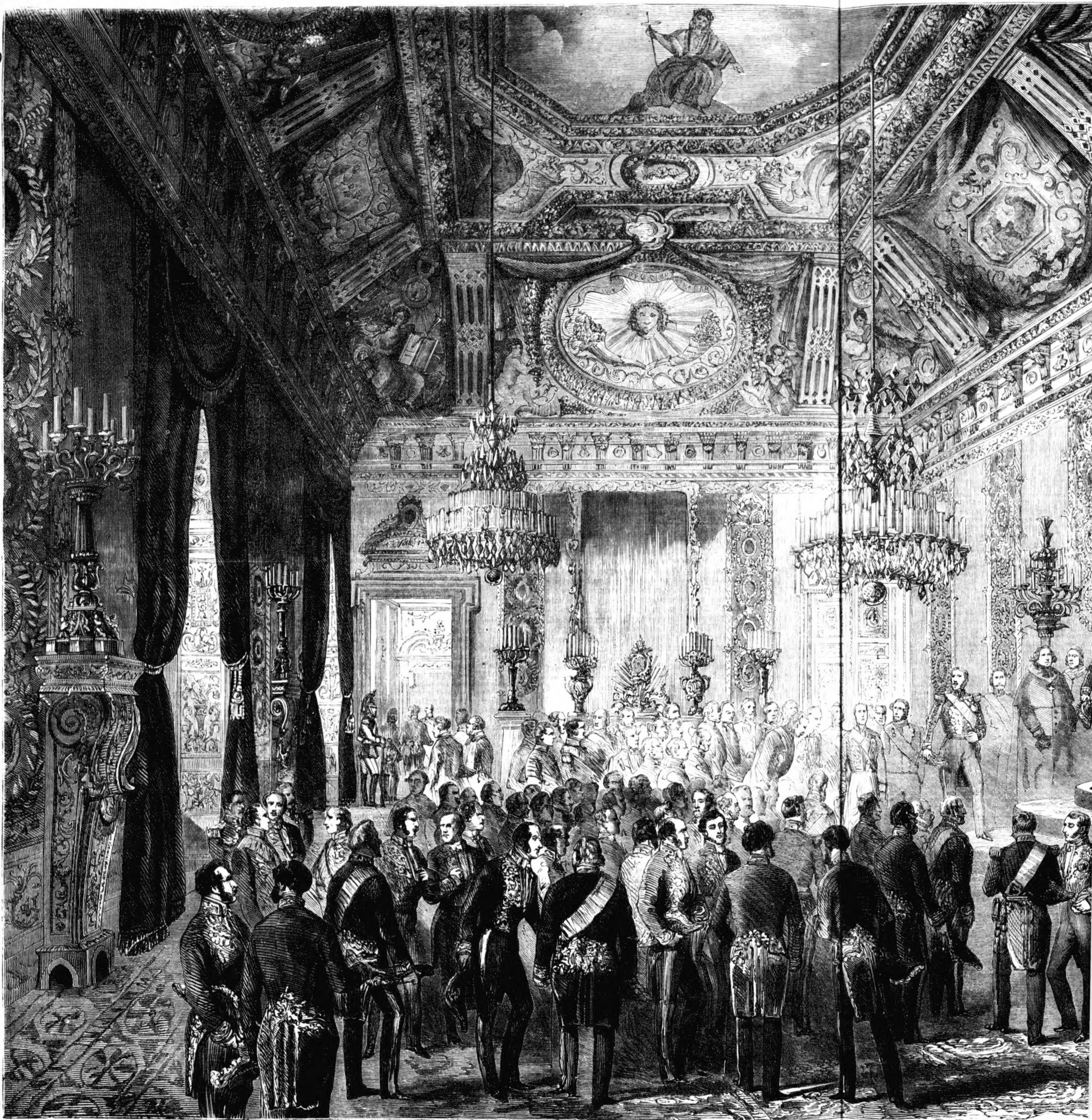
Mr. George Dundas, who is appointed lieutenant-governor of Prince Edward's Island, is the member for Linlithgowshire, and the son of a Scotch laird with "a lang pedigree," but not a very long purse. This is the gentleman who, on the occasion of the window-smashing in Belgravia when the Sunday question was agitated, talked so flippantly about the "trail of a 4-pounder." Happily for Mr. Dundas and for the island to which he is going, no very commanding abilities are required in the governor, for the population is under 80,000 souls—not so many as may be found in some London parishes—and there is, moreover, an Assembly, with fourteen officials, besides the militia to help him to govern. The salary of the governor is £1,500 a year, with a house, and, probably, pickings. This "right little tight little island" must be, I should fancy, exceedingly well managed, for it has—1st, a Lieutenant-Governor; 2nd, an Assembly; 3rd, a Colonial Secretary; 4th, Colonial Treasurer; 5th, Clerk of the Executive and Legislative Council; 6th, Assistant Judge and Master of the Rolls; 7th, Clerk of the Crown; 8th, Attorney-General; 9th, Solicitor-General; 10th, Recorder; 11th, Judge of the Vice-Admiralty Court; 12th, Registrar; 13th, Marshall; 14th, Comptroller of the Customs. How strong the militia force is, and whether there is any police in the island, I cannot learn. The revenue of the island, in 1856, amounted to £27,108; the expenditure to £33,576. The balance is, I presume, paid by the Imperial Government.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

MR. OXFORD'S adaptation of Molière's "Tartuffe" has been revived at the Adelphi Theatre. It was originally produced at the Haymarket, and its great feature is the representation of the principal character by Mr. Webster. A more natural and more repulsive portraiture cannot be imagined: the oily smoothness of the hypocrite, the boiling passion of the libertine, and the impotent rage of the baffled coward, were all admirably expressed. Elmire was played by a *débütante* in London, a Miss Henrietta Simms, who brings with her a good provincial reputation. She has an intelligent and pleasant face, a good figure, and an agreeable manner. I do not agree with those who think that Elmire scarcely offers a fair test of an actress's capabilities; the character certainly affords her no chance of exhibiting her powers, but there is much delicate light and shade, much opportunity for by-play, and many a pit-fall for a person given to ranting or to making points. Miss Simms has evidently been very carefully trained for her profession—which is not to be wondered at, coming, as I understand she does, from Mr. Roxby's Sunderland circuit—and acts with much quiet evenness and earnestness. She is perfectly at home upon the stage, and yet is not in the least degree stagey. She is also particularly lady-like, and is, taken altogether, the best importation I have seen from the provinces for many a long day. Dorine, the waiting-woman of the old school, who is allowed perfect license of speech in her intercourse with her employers, is played with much vivacity and archness by Mrs. Mellon, who delivers the best speeches with an *aplomb* which keeps alive the attention of the audience during the first rather heavy scene. Mr. Charles Selby (who looked as if he had stepped out of an old picture, so capably was he made up) played the vacillating Orgon; and Mr. Garden delivered the didactic prologues of Cleante with due emphasis. Miss Mary Keeley is much to be commended for her quietude and natural acting as Mariane; and a word of special praise is due to Mr. C. J. Smith, an excellent actor of small parts, whose M. Loyal was a veritable bit of Dutch painting.

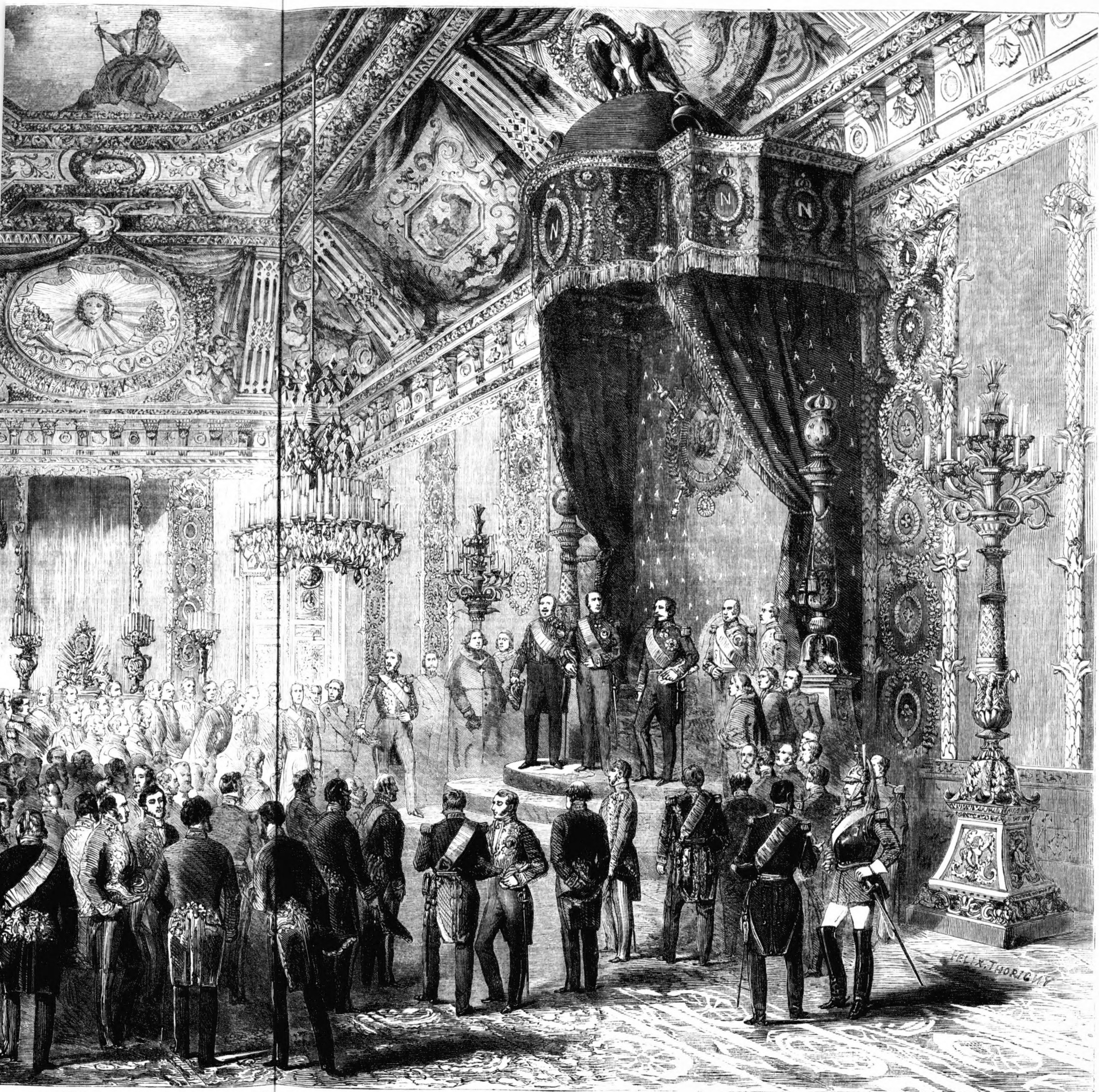
Mr. Oxford has closely followed the original text, and the piece is played, as at the Français, in one scene, the act-drop never descending from first to last, but the band playing the usual *entr'acte* music during the absence of the characters. Despite the manner in which it is played, I scarcely think the comedy suited to an Adelphi audience. For the first half-hour, until the appearance of Tartuffe, it goes heavily; and there is too much dialogue and too little action to render it perfectly successful here.

At the Olympic has been revived Mr. Charles Dance's excellent comedieta "Naval Engagements," which was originally produced by Madame Vestris, in this house, in the year 1838. The "cast" then contained the names of the manageress herself, Mrs. Orger, Mr. W. Farren, and Mr. Charles Mathews! *Eheu, fugaces!* In their stead, we have now Miss Hughes, Mrs. Stirling, Mr. Addison, and Mr. G. Vining—as good substitutes as the present stage could furnish. Mrs. Stirling plays, of course, charmingly, and one is delighted to notice the good sense with which she is giving up juvenile characters, and adopting a line which has no present recognised representative, and in which she would be unrivalled.



RECEPTION BY NAPOLEON III, IN THE THRONE-ROOM

OF THE TUILERIES, ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.



RECEPTION BY NAPOLEON III, IN THE THRONE-ROOM

OF THE TUILERIES, ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.

RECEPTION AT THE TUILERIES ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.

NEW-YEAR'S DAY in France is kept with great rejoicings amongst all classes. From the *chiffonier* to the courtiers all keep it as a general holiday. It is the season at which old friendships are cemented with an additional tie, old quarrels forgotten, and fresh proofs of affection exchanged between families. But our business is more especially with the doings at the Tuileries, and the reception of the state bodies that annually takes place there. The gathering of last New-year's Day has become famous, from the fact that on that occasion a few words were spoken by the Emperor, which disturbed the tranquillity of Europe, and for a time depreciated property to the amount of six millions sterling.

The ceremony is thus described:—"The members of the diplomatic corps assembled in the *Salle du Trône*, and took their places round the throne. His Majesty passed in front of the Diplomatic Corps, of which the members were presented by the Grand Master of the Ceremonies. The Ambassadors and the Plenipotentiaries present in Paris, but not performing any functions there, were received after the resident Diplomatic Corps. The Diplomatic Corps withdrew by the Gallery of Diana. At one o'clock the Emperor took his seat on the throne, having on his right Prince Jerome Napoleon, Prince Louis Lucien Bonaparte, and Prince Joachim Murat; on his left, Prince Napoleon and Prince Lucien Murat. On the right of the Emperor, after the princes, were the Grand Almoner, the Grand Chamberlain, and the General commanding the Imperial Guard. On their right the Cardinals and Ministers, the Marshals and Admirals. Behind the Cardinals, Ministers, Marshals, and Admirals stood the Commander of the Squadron of the Cent-Gardes and the orderly officers of his Majesty. On the left of the Emperor, after the princes, were the dignitaries, functionaries, &c., of the palace."

A REPORT HAS REACHED PARIS of the death of Rudio at Cayenne. He is said to have exhibited in his last hours "sentiments of repentance and piety."

MOORE'S STATUE AT DUBLIN, and its pedestal, are to be removed, with a view to their improvement and re-erection. "The statue was cast not in accordance with the requirements of the sculptor, and the pedestal will be of a more suitable and handsome form than the one originally adopted."

HIS MAJESTY'S GOD-DAUGHTER, the Princess Victoria Gouramina of Coorg, was confirmed on Monday week, at Kew Church, by the Queen's desire. The ceremony was performed by the Bishop of Winchester. The Rajah of Coorg, her father, was present.

HERR MOLIQUE AND MADAME ANNA MOLIQUE, his daughter, have left England for a short concert-tour in Germany.

THE ORATORIO on which Dr. Bennett is known to have been engaged for some years past has been bespoken for the next Leeds festival.

LAST YEAR there were in the United States forty-seven steamers sunk, nineteen burned, and nine exploded. 259 lives were lost, and property to the amount of 1,924,000 dollars was sacrificed. And this on the western rivers alone.

A CURIOUS STATISTICAL RETURN has lately been made of the supply of eggs to England from France, by which it appears that the annual value of this export to this country exceeds that of wine. France furnishes England with 200,000,000 of eggs annually.

THE GENTLEMEN WHO HUNT WITH HER MAJESTY'S STAGHOUNDS have invited the veteran huntsman, Mr. Charles Davis, to a dinner, which will take place at the London Tavern on February 2. As each gentleman will appear in hunting costume, the appearance of the guests will present a novel scene in the city.

SOME SWINDLER has been fleeing people in the country of many hundreds of pounds, by pretending to collect money for a testimonial to Mr. Mechi.

THE FREEJEE ISLANDERS.—The United States frigate *Vandalia* has been pumhing the Freejee islanders for eating the crew of a small vessel. The natives refusing to give up the murderers, and taking advantage of their strong position (a town situated on the top of a high mountain, 1,600 feet above the level of the sea) to defy the party sent against them, a landing was effected, and, after a most fatiguing march of several hours, the expedition arrived opposite the town. A long halt was made to refresh the men, who were almost prostrated by their exertions. After resting, the town was assaulted and carried by a flank movement, the natives fleeing to their rocks and fastnesses. The town was nearly destroyed, 115 houses having been fired. On the return of the expedition, they were attacked furiously in one of the ravines by 300 warriors, who were repulsed with a heavy loss, the natives losing nearly fifty in killed and wounded, including two of their principal chiefs. The Americans had six wounded, one man very severely.

SOLIDIFICATION OF OILS.—M. Petta, in a paper addressed to the Academy of Sciences, describes a method for transforming vegetable oils into solid masses, through the action of chloride of sulphur. This substance, when composed so as to contain the largest proportion possible of sulphur, is poured in the oil at the common temperature; the mixture is well stirred and allowed to stand. By degrees it becomes warm, and the solidification takes place. The operation must be performed on small quantities at a time, in order to avoid the generation of too high a temperature, which would drive off the chloride by evaporation, and perhaps even carbonise the oil. As soon as the combination is effected, the mass is poured out on a plate of glass, carefully flattened, and then left to cool; at the end of five or six minutes it becomes hard. A second stratum may then be cast on the former, and so on until the requisite thickness has been obtained. Care must be taken, however, to prevent the interposition of moisture between the layers, otherwise they will not join. One hundred parts of linseed oil and twenty-five parts of chloride of sulphur will produce the greatest hardness possible; if the proportions of chloride be reduced to twenty or fifteen parts, the mass will be supple, like India-rubber; and 100 parts of oil with only five of chloride will thicken the oil considerably without hardening it.

SHAKESPEARE AS A LAWYER.—A new illustrator of Shakespeare (says the "Athenæum") has entered the field in the person of the Lord Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench, Lord Campbell. During a recent vacation in Scotland, he turned his attention again to our great dramatic poet; and reading over his plays consecutively, he was struck by the vast number of legal phrases and allusions they contain, and by the extreme appropriateness and accuracy of their application. He began by noting and remarking upon them, giving them such explanations and elucidations as his vast experience and knowledge of the law enabled him readily to furnish. He has since put them into more regular form and order, and is printing them in the shape of a familiar letter to Mr. Payne Collier—who, in his recent biography of Shakespeare, states that there are more indications in Shakespeare, that he had in some way, early in life, been connected with the legal profession, than are to be met with in all the works of contemporary dramatists put together.

CANADA AND BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.—The net revenue of Canada in 1856 amounted to £1,114,800, and the expenditure to £945,643. The gross revenue, £1,497,385, was derived principally from the customs duties, which amounted to £1,127,332. Of the sums expended £225,224 was appropriated to the payment of the interest on the debt, £56,030 to civil government, £114,254 to the administration of justice, £117,445 to legislation, £97,514 to education, £38,757 to hospitals, &c., £56,108 to the militia and enrolled force, £39,850 to the ocean and steam river service, £4,733 to police, and £9,216 to the removal of the seat of government. 5,556,762 tons of shipping entered the ports of Canada in 1856 (2,731,296 British), and 5,620,247 tons cleared outwards. 148 vessels of 45,339 were licensed in Canada in 1856, and 171 registered. The value of the imports for consumption was £9,806,487, and that of the exports £7,210,579. The value of the imports from the United Kingdom was £4,553,233; and the value of the exports thither from Canada, £2,313,667. The gross revenue received from these several canals amounted to £95,393; 3,164,823 gallons of proof spirit were distilled in Canada in 1856, yielding an excise duty of £17,279. The revenue of New Brunswick, in 1856, was £119,305; and the expenditure, £141,709; 3,225 vessels, of 648,756 tons, entered the ports of the colony; and 3,875, of 704,149 tons, cleared out. The imports amounted to £1,521,178, and the exports to £1,073,351. The rate of wages for labour in New Brunswick was, for domestic service, £2 10s. to £3 per month; for predial service, £2 10s. to £4 per month; and for trades, 5s. 6d. to 10s. per day. The value of the imports into the ports of Nova Scotia in 1856 was £1,869,832, and that of the exports £1,372,958. The population of Prince Edward's Island in 1856 was 71,490 souls (36,131 males and 35,359 females). The revenue amounted to £27,108, and the expenditure to £33,576. 619 vessels entered, tonnage 35,931; and 603 cleared, tonnage 42,865. 88 vessels of 14,910 tons were built there in the same year. The imports are valued at £237,126, and the exports at £258,860. There were 941,905 acres of cultivated, and 346,880 of uncultivated, land. Of Newfoundland the income in 1856 was £118,832, and the expenditure £105,846. 1,327 vessels, of 161,640 tons, entered; and 1,140, of 145,849 tons, cleared out. The imports were 1,271,004, and the exports £1,338,797. Domestic labour was remunerated at the rate of £20 to £30 per annum, predial at £18 to £25, and trades at 7s. 6d. per diem.

THE COMING SESSION.

NOTES OF PREPARATION.

THE note of preparation is sounding loudly in the Houses of Parliament; and in a few more weeks the hosts will again be gathered for wordy war. An army of workmen is busily employed in getting the legislative chambers ready—painters, window-cleaners, dusters, polishers, upholsterers, &c. &c., are brushing, rubbing, scrubbing, scouring, patching, and mending, and will soon make the furniture, fittings, windows, candelabras, Minton tiles, and statuary, look "amaist as good as new." In St. Stephen's Hall, scaffoldings are up and workmen busy taking out the ground-glass windows and putting in gorgeously-coloured heraldic lights instead. The southern windows are all done, and with due diligence it is hoped that the northern may be completed before Parliament "meets for despatch of business."

THE OLD CRYPT RENEWED.

Under this gallery is the old "St. Stephen's Crypt," otherwise called "St. Mary's Chapel in the vaults." This curious crypt was, we are told, begun by Edward I., in 1292; it is therefore nearly 600 years old. Twice have the overlying buildings been consumed by fire since its erection; but in both instances the fire stopped here. It played round and round the solid masonry of the Plantagenets, seeking an entrance, but found none; nor could the falling of the buildings above break through its vaulted and groined ceiling. And here it stands; its surface showing marks of decay's effacing fingers, but still strong enough to bear the weight of Barry's buildings above, and it will probably outlive them also. The dimensions of this relic of the olden time are, in internal length, 91 feet; in breadth, from 234 feet in the clear to 33 feet between the glass of the windows; in height, about 10 feet or twelve feet to the springing of the roof; above the springing to the centre of the ceiling, 12 feet. Well, at present the chapel is undergoing a thorough repair and restoration: literally, restoration, as I understand. Everything, to the minutest ornament, is to be replaced. It is very doubtful, or, rather, hardly doubtful, whether the restoration will be finished before Parliament meets. And for what purpose the chapel is to be used, nobody seems to know. Will it be Mr. Speaker's domestic chapel? Rumour so reports—but her report needs confirmation. The principal entrance will, I imagine, be through the cloisters, now used as a cloak-room. This part of the palace is also old—restored. It consists of four cloisters enclosing a quadrangular court-yard. It was built in the reign of Henry VIII., in the early part of his reign, before his quarrel with the Pope. The ceiling is on the fan principle, and, for lightness and elegance, is not surpassed by any existing specimen of that ornate style. Projecting from the western cloister into the court-yard is an oratory; a beautiful little chamber with vaulted roof, and ending in an octagonal apse. When I saw the oratory, last it was occupied by files of the "Times," lying on the table and piled on the floor. "To what base uses do we turn!" The cloisters, in which reverend bishops, and abbots, and priests took their daily walk, or, arrayed in pallium, cope, and stole, marched in solemn procession, is now degraded to a depository for cloaks and umbrellas, and all round you may see brass hooks, with members' names written on cardboard attached thereto, and in the session these hooks are occupied by the cloaks and great-coats of hon. members. The oratory, where probably there was in the apse an altar and crucifix, before which priests offered prayers, is now consecrated to the modern Jupiter Tonans, the "Times." In Rome, it is said that the old pagan statues were in many instances transmogrified into Christian saints. In England we have gone a step further, and from a chapel, duly consecrated and sprinkled with holy water, we have ejected the symbols of Christian worship, and enthroned the deity of Printing House Square. This change, however, is not inappropriate; for our senators are, perhaps, as anxious to prostrate the "Times" as they are any other deity—*For populi, vox Dei*. And the "Times" is the people's prophet. What next, and next? Tell us, O Dr. Cumming, for you are wise in such matters. In the cloisters, or cloak-room, letters, parcels, petitions, &c., are left for honourable members; and here may often be seen, clustering round the fire, a group of senators smoking their cigars. And it is here that, all wearied with their night's work, our legislators cloak up and light their weeds before they start for home. The cloisters are on the ground-floor—a storey below the house—and therefore smoking is allowed.

A NEW FRESCO.

Since last session Mr. Ward has filled up another panel in the corridor leading from the central hall to the House of Commons' lobby with a fresco. The subject is, "The Sleep of Argyle on the Eve before his Execution." Apropos of this: it is pretty clear now that the colour of these frescoes don't stand. In the vestibule, dedicated to the English poets, there are marked signs of decay already—not fading, but decay. Ought not the Committee of Taste to arrest the progress of the ornamentation of the palace, until some method can be discovered to arrest the progress of decay? There has been an "improvement" made in the entrance to Westminster Hall. It will be remembered that there was an inner screen, covered with green baize, to keep off the wind from the barristers, solicitors, and their clients, who congregated and promenaded in the hall. This has been removed, and an ornamented oaken screen substituted by Sir Charles Barry.

THE CLOCK DON'T GO YET.

The clock, which her Majesty's Chief Commissioner intimated would be up and going before another session, is not yet up; or, at all events, does not yet go. The bells are all mounted aloft, but it is doubtful whether we shall hear them strike the hours for some months to come. So much the better, I should say, for the sergeant-at-arms, the *clericus dom. com.*, the librarian, and the assistant sergeant, whose houses are in close proximity with the clock-tower. It will be a long time before they get used to the clangour of that tremendous bell just over their heads.

MR. SPEAKER'S HOUSE.

The fitting and furnishing of Mr. Speaker's house is in progress. It is a noble dwelling, and, regardless of expense, will be fitted and furnished in a manner befitting the rank and position of the "first Commoner in England." But suppose the odours of Father Thames should next year, and for years to come, be as foul as they were last session, verily, in that case, Mr. Speaker will wish himself back again in Eaton Square; for in that position, the windows looking over the Thames, with only the breadth of the terrace between them and the foul and fetid stream, I would not sleep night after night for six months for all his salary and honours. Let us hope that my Lord John Manners, if he cannot set the Thames on fire, may be able provisionally to subdue and keep down the rank odour until Sir Benjamin's Board of Works shall have thoroughly cleansed the stream, once and for ever. To go to bed in those splendid chambers, filled with such "a compound of villainous smells" as those which floated about the library and all the chambers next to the river last summer, would be very much like having to pass through a night of sea-sickness in a gorgeous saloon. The gilding and the mirrors would aggravate our woe.

A BUSY SESSION TOWARD.

By all accounts we are to have an exceedingly busy session. The private bills are unusually numerous; not less than 250 are entered. This shows that money is plentiful. Last year the panic had hardly passed away, and money was scarce. These bills add considerably to the labour of the session, as they have to be all examined in committee. But if the Lords will do their duty, the labour will be somewhat mitigated; for by a standing order moved by Colonel Wilson Patten, and passed by the House, private bills may be introduced into the Lords first now. And it is expected that the Lords will now take their share of the heavy duty of examining these bills in committee. Nominally, of course, private bills are examined by committees of both Houses, but when a bill has undergone a searching examination by a committee of one House its examination in most cases by the other is not much more than formal. In public matters, we may expect a noisy clattering, and perhaps a broken session. Two state doctors, at least, are preparing to renovate our constitution. Lord Derby and Mr. Bright are both pledged; and it is not certain that we shall not have our old state

doctor, Lord John, pushing in between. Or, perhaps, he will lend a helping hand to the Government, as he did last year, by proposing that "the House do proceed by resolution." What a bristling of theories and counter-theories! What armies of figures we may expect! a regular Walpurgis dance of mad theories and statistics. The general opinion amongst politicians is that Mr. Bright has strengthened Lord Derby's position. Lord Derby thinks so—for, meeting a friend the other day, he said in his humorous way, "I suppose you will want to know what we have given Mr. Bright for those speeches of his?" But the Government will have some difficulty in getting unscathed through the session.

AT MALTA, the following garrison order has caused much bitterness:—"All guards to turn out to the Archbishop of Malta, and all sentries to carry arms and present arms when the Host passes." Captain Sheffield, of the Royal North British Fusiliers, a Crimean officer, having refused to obey the order, has been placed under arrest.

THE BRUSSELS "INDEPENDENCE" says the approaching marriage of Prince Napoleon Bonaparte to the eldest daughter of the King of Sardinia has been communicated to the Court of St. James's, and that "England replies that she views the marriage with satisfaction; and Queen Victoria has presented her congratulations to the Imperial Family."

COLONEL HENRY MARION DURAND, C.B., of the Bengal Engineers, is elected a member of the Council of India.

AUSTRIA, in imitation of the other great Powers, has decided on attaching a superior officer for military affairs to her embassy in France. Colonel de Loewenthal has arrived in Paris to perform these functions.

CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH HAVE SUPERVENED since the acceptance of his mission, will probably detain Mr. Gladstone in the Ionian Islands until some time after the commencement of the session. It is hoped, however, that he will return in time for the more important debates.

CAPTAIN SHEPHERD, one of the newly-elected members of the Council of India, died on Wednesday week. He was formerly deputy-master of the Trinity House.

A NEW TWO-ACT DRAMA, by Mr. Stous, author of the "Templars," &c., is in rehearsal at the Adelphi; and it is understood that an engagement is pending with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mathews to appear at the same theatre.

DURING LAST YEAR TWENTY-FIVE VESSELS were wrecked in Liverpool Bay. Of these, twelve were totally lost, and the remainder, with four exceptions, either raised or removed.

THE COMMISSIONERS FOR THE GREAT EXHIBITION OF 1851 have at length paid off the Government advances, and the estate at Kensington is now their own property.

A POWERFUL AND EFFECTIVE WEAPON, known as Terry's patent breech-loading rifle, is to be supplied immediately to several cavalry regiments. The carbine may be loaded with facility by a horseman while at full gallop.

THE EXPECTED ARRIVAL AT ALEXANDRIA of his Royal Highness Prince Alfred, has created some excitement in the place, and arrangements are being made by the British residents to give the distinguished young visitor a welcome reception. A grand public ball is spoken of, at which the Viceroy has already intimated his intention to be present.

CAPTAINS BURTON AND SPEKE, of the expedition to East Africa, have succeeded, after the most trying efforts, in reaching and surveying the great lake of the interior, and are on their return to Zanzibar.

THE BURNS CENTENARY.—Lord Brougham having intimated that he cannot possibly be present at the Edinburgh banquet, the chair has been assigned to Lord Ardmillan, one of the judges of the Court of Session. Mr. Sheriff Gordon and Mr. Moncreiff, M.P., will discharge the duty of croqueters. There is to be a "tea banquet" (shade of Burns!) in the Corn Exchange, under the auspices of the Total Abstinence Society. A dozen towns in Scotland intend to celebrate the occasion, and there will be many gatherings in England. Mr. Aikin, grandson of the poet's "loved, honoured, and much-respected friend" of that name, will preside at a dinner at Bristol. In London, the Caledonian Society will hold a festival; and Mr. James Hannay will preside at a second banquet, at the Guildhall Hotel, Gresham Street. A "Burns dinner" is talked of in Paris, too.

ABOLITION OF SPECIAL SERVICES.—By Royal warrant published in Tuesday's "Gazette," the forms of prayer and service made for the 5th of November, the 30th of January, and the 29th of May, are abolished. That is to say, the deliverance from the gunpowder plot, the "martyrdom" of Charles I., and the restoration of Charles II., will no longer be commemorated in the ritual of the Established Church.

THE ACCIDENT AT THE POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—Scientific evidence adduced at the inquiry into the cause of the fatal accident at the Polytechnic, tends to show that the original breakage was attributable to the bottom landing having given way. Mr. Nelson, an architect, particularly animadverted on its construction, which he declared "ought never to be allowed in a public building," since, "sooner or later this one would have given way under such a heavy traffic, even if the iron truss had not been let into it."

MR. SPURGEON ON THE COSTUME OF A CHRISTIAN.—Mr. Spurgeon, in a recent lecture at Exeter Hall, said he liked to look back to the time when the Christian was known by the cut of his coat and his brogue. He did not go in for the "broad-brim," but he would rather dress himself that way than he would wear the things some men did; and he would rather see his sisters in Christ habited as the Quakers, than they should magnify, enlarge, and increase themselves as they now did.

INCREASE IN THE NAVAL ESTIMATES.—We believe we may announce with tolerable certainty that ministers are prepared to ask for a considerable increase in the naval estimates in the approaching session. No absolute increase is contemplated in the army estimates. The regiments returning from India, their period of service there having more than expired, will, however, form an augmentation of the regular military force in the United Kingdom. This will probably enable the authorities to lessen the estimates for the militia. The increased amount required for the navy will be principally appropriated to a considerable augmentation of the Channel Fleet.

AN IMPERIAL ACTRESS.—"A very short time since," says a correspondent of the "Literary Gazette," "the Empress sent for M. Octave Feuillet, the author of the new play at the Vaudeville ('Le Roman d'un Jeune Homme Pauvre'), and astounded him by the proposition to write a piece for her! The Empress Eugénie is possessed with a feminine desire to get up private theatricals at the Tuileries; and she intends to gratify the guests who are honoured by a bidding to the chateau, by the sight of her own charming self playing a part written expressly for her by a popular dramatist. Her recommendations to her 'playwright extraordinary' were curious enough: she insisted on the necessity of being made, in her rôle, to be attached to some one, but added that it was necessary the fortunate object of this attachment should not appear, for that it would not be 'convenient.' She gave M. Feuillet permission to place her adorer in China or Japan, but laid on him no restriction excepting this."

THE ALDERMAN IN PARLIAMENT.—Alderman Tubbs is a very good fellow in his way, and a very clever one. He has made an immense fortune by mills and speculation; he has a keen, steady eye, for the market, a nice taste for fabrics, materials, patterns, and colours; he is loved and feared by his own people, respected by his townsmen; he can carry almost anything that he pleases, and he can make a very fair speech at a public dinner. One thing is wanting to his greatness—at least, so think Mrs. Tubbs and the Misses Tubbs—and that is a seat in Parliament, with the prospect of the drawing-room and admission to fashionable society. So, though the town produces its usual share of clever talking men, rising barristers, University men, writers, and philosophers, Alderman Tubbs is elected without opposition. He proposes a speech on the first debate within his comprehension, and finds that he might as well prepare to dance on the tight rope, or vault over nine chairs, performing a comersault by the way. He hasn't it in him. He is great among goods, and clearheaded at casting a balance; but in the presence of Mr. Speaker and the hon. members his wits utterly fail him. Perhaps, by dint of great force, or his own natural hardihood, he may get out a few sentences; but, as Mr. Roebuck observes, he shortly comes to that terrible pass when he has to name the House, and has not the wit to avoid the dreaded shibboleth. Once he calls it "ouse," and there is an end of him. Whatever treasures of wisdom he may hide under his honest brow, though he sit for thirty years in that 'ouse, he is a dead man. A storm of derision greets the mutilated syllable, and haunts the memory of the alderman to his dying hour. Better have lost £20,000 on edifice or hardware than given that one sound less breath than its due. Nor was it ever otherwise. A man who had once mispronounced a word could never again show himself in an Athenian senate or theatre. The Macedonian Alexander was rendered miserable in the midst of his triumphs by his nice Athenian critics. The Fathers of the early Church tell us that even an angel would not have been listened to in the pulpit if he had left out his h's. Paley never got over lengthening the second syllable of "profugus." Clever as he was, and well as he wrote, he could be no scholar. So Alderman Tubbs has failed in very illustrious company. But why should he complain? After spending an evening pleasantly at the 'ouse, he returns to a splendid mansion, an affectionate wife, lively girls, company of his own rank, and the happy consciousness of extending trade, increasing income, and an enlarged acquaintance. The fellow whose speech he and the rest of the House have been listening to for an hour, perhaps retires to lodgings, loneliness, desertion, and debt.—The Times.

Literature.

The Life of Douglas Jerrold. By his Son, BLANCHARD JERROLD. London: Kent and Co.

How often it has been asserted that the lives of literary men are without interest; and yet the narrative of a distinguished writer's career, told with truthfulness and feeling, will find more readers than any other kind of biography. It is quite true that the life of an author is, in most instances, to be found in his books, but it is equally certain that the history of a general is mixed up intimately with his battles; and, if it be important to know how great fights have been won, it is equally interesting and instructive to hear how works of high literary merit were planned and executed. The literary biography has, therefore, an advantage on its side—it appeals directly to the reader's sympathies; whereas, among the warmest admirers of men of action, many are to be found who care nothing for books. Thousands of the most eminent *saboteurs* who served under the Emperor, and worshipped his name, would not have taken the trouble to spell through his life, even if a good life of Napoleon had been in existence, simply because they were without the reading habit; whereas the same taste or liking which prompts men day by day to peruse the works of a living author, makes them desirous of studying the author himself, when, after an author's, but glorious, career, he has at length said his last word and closed his lips for ever. A life of Douglas Jerrold was expected by his thousands and tens of thousands of readers, and the duty of writing it naturally devolved upon his son, Mr. Blanchard Jerrold. The task was a delicate, and in many respects a difficult one; but Mr. Blanchard Jerrold has acquitted himself of it with the greatest judgment and ability. The biography is wonderfully complete. Nothing has been omitted that the public can have any interest in knowing; and we are indebted to the affectionate industry of the son for the fullest account of the father's writings—from the earliest to the latest period—that can possibly be obtained. The main interest of the book proceeds from the fact that it makes us thoroughly and intimately acquainted with Douglas Jerrold in his private relations. We read of his early struggles and aspirations; we see him in the midst of his family (the picture of his daily life at Putney is the most charming thing in the whole volume); his correspondence with his dearest friends is laid before us—in short, we get a thorough insight into his views, opinions, and feelings on a variety of subjects, and learn to know the man as he really existed. We think it may be said of Jerrold, more than of any other author, that his true nature was reflected in his writings; but the public, who delight in absurd paradoxes, are pleased to believe (on the strength of two or three exceptional instances) that writers are not the same men in print and in private life. There was a union of intellect and heart in everything that proceeded from Jerrold's pen. Even his most ordinary newspaper contributions seemed to be written as much from feeling as from mere logical conviction, and there is not a line of dry argumentation in all his works. Sentiment so strong, and evidently sincere, must of course be enduring, and accordingly, in Jerrold's private life, we find the same freedom of speech, the same hatred of tyranny, the same contempt for meanness, and the same kindness of disposition, which he always expressed in his public writings.

For the great majority of the facts set forth by Mr. Blanchard Jerrold in his biography of his father, we must refer the reader to the book itself. All we can do is to endeavour to give some general notion as to the manner in which the work has been planned and executed, and to note the most striking points in Douglas Jerrold's career. His existence may be said to have been passed entirely in the study and practice of literature, for, though he commenced life in the navy, he quitted the service when he was only twelve years old; and we find that at the age of fifteen he had already written a piece for the stage, which was produced two years afterwards at Sadler's Wells, under the title of "More Frightened than Hurt." At this time he was apprenticed to a printer. "I have heard him describe his work at this period of his life," says Mr. Blanchard Jerrold, "with honest pride. He would tell me how he had risen with the first peep of day to study his Latin grammar alone before going to work; how he had fallen on Shakespeare, and had devoured every line of the great master; and how, with his old father, who was a thoughtful, if a weak man, he had sat in the intervals of his labour to read a novel of Sir Walter Scott's, obtained, by pinching, from a library." The story of Douglas Jerrold working as a compositor at a newspaper office, going to the theatre to see "Der Freischütz," writing an article on the piece, dropping it into the letter-box of the journal on which he was employed, and having his own "copy" given him to set up with his own hands, has often been told, and Mr. Blanchard Jerrold assures us that it is true in every particular; but he adds that this was only his father's first article in the "Monitor" (the journal in question); it was not the first article he had ever had in print. "That was a bright morning," says the son, "when the editor handed him his own article to compose, together with an address to the anonymous correspondent, asking for further contributions. His way from the case to the writer's desk was bridged, though years might pass before he should be able finally to pass from the mechanical drudgery to the intellectual pursuit."

When Jerrold began to write for the stage, the minor theatres were prevented by law from performing the legitimate drama. Accordingly, he invented a style of his own—the domestic drama—which corresponds, to some extent, with the *drame bourgeois* of Diderot and Beaumarchais (such as the "Marriage of Figaro" days); but with this important difference—that Jerrold's plays are chiefly remarkable for the brilliant wit that is put into the mouth of the comic characters, whereas the French pieces of middle-class every-day life are altogether sentimental. "Black-Eyed Susan" was produced in 1829, when the author was in his twenty-sixth year. It saved Elliston from bankruptcy, and made the fortune of two theatres and one actor—T. P. Cooke. Jerrold, for his share of the wealth it produced, received about seventy pounds. Mr. Blanchard Jerrold gives a list of all his father's pieces, from "More Frightened than Hurt," his first, to "A Heart of Gold," which was produced at the Princess's in 1854. In 1853, "St. Cupid, or Dorothy's Fortune," had been brought out before her Majesty at Windsor Castle—on which occasion the author was not even invited to attend the performance!

We shall say nothing of Mr. Jerrold's novels, tales, and contributions to newspapers and to "Punch," nor of the journals which he projected and established, nor of the clubs and associations of which he was the founder. Several of the "Q" papers (which the public would be glad to see in a volume) are quoted at length in the biography; and Mr. Blanchard Jerrold has given every information that can be desired as to the circumstances under which his father's most important works were produced. The book on which the author himself set most value appears to have been the "Chronicles of Clovenhook," and all his critics agree in considering that work his master-piece.

The following description of Douglas Jerrold's study, and of Jerrold himself at his work, is to us highly interesting, though it suffers (as we present it) by being detached from the account of his early morning occupations, which immediately precedes it:—

"The study is a very snug room. All about it are books. Crowning the shelves are Milton and Shakespeare. A bit of Shakespeare's mulberry tree is upon the mantel-piece. Above the sofa are the 'Rent Day' and 'Dis-crepancy for Rent,' Wilkie's two pictures, in the corner of which is Wilkie's description to the author of the drama called the 'Rent Day.' Under two prints hangs Sir Joshua's sly 'Puck,' perched upon a pulpy broom. Turner's 'Heddelberg' is here too, and the engraver thereof is in the foreground—she lives close at hand—to see his friend Douglas Jerrold. 'Ariadne and Dorothea' decorate the chimney-piece. The furniture is simple, solid oak. The desk has not a speck upon it. The marble top, upon which the inkstand rests, has no litter on it. Various notes lie about between clips on the table. The paper-basket stands near the arm-chair, prepared for unanswered letters and rejected contributions. The little dog follows his master into the study, and lies at his feet. The work begins. If it be a comedy, the author will now and then walk rapidly up and down the room, talking wildly to himself; if it be 'Punch' only, you shall hear him laugh presently as he hits upon a droll bit. Sud-

denly the pen will be put down, and through a little conservatory, without seeing anybody, the author will pass out into the garden, where he will talk to the gardener, or watch, chucking the while, the careful steps of the little terror amid the gooseberry bushes, or pluck a hawthorn leaf, and go nibbling it, and thinking, down the side walks."

We must mention that the "Life of Douglas Jerrold," contains several letters from Jerrold to Mr. Dickens and other distinguished writers. In fact, independently of its other merits, the work has the advantage of conveying a very faithful picture of contemporary literary life in England.

ART MANUFACTURES.—Years ago, Brown adding to his collection in the belief of a good easy man—that its dispersion by Christy and Manson on some future day will stamp him with the reputation of a Bernal, and leave all the little Browns with substantial reasons for blessing their father's memory and taste. Meanwhile, Moses, Aminadab, and Shadrach are busy in their bookish nooses, to the tune of their fabricated Greek, Hebrew and Gubbeo were upon the highest, a hunter of art manufactures, and working to each other with their cruel eyes as only such harpies can wink while they divide the spoils of each fresh triumph over his simplicity. The inevitable day comes—that cruel inevitable day which awaits us all—when Brown has gone to sleep with his fathers, and Jew brokers, dillettantes, and gazing idlers swarm over the rooms that were erewhile his pride to decorate with bits of mosaic, and choice specimens of Reissner, and which was made glorious for him by that picture, with the gleams of sunshine striking through the green casements of the forest glade (the thing is called young Linnell, but is well known as one of Scumble Megill's stock counterfeits)—when his most valued Wedgwood vases are clutched by the sacrilegious claws of Wardour Street dealers, and his Sevres plates, erst pillowed in softest velvet, are landed about by greasy porters. Then the truth transpires. The fairy gold is seen to be only stones. Moses, Aminadab, and Shadrach are in the secret of it all. What is Brown's reputation to them in comparison with truth? Of course they blab. No doubt the things sell for an old song; and if the Israelites buy them, who will venture to surmise that they do so with ultimate views of setting them forth as genuine for the benefit of future Browns at an Israelitish rate of profit? This is the sort of farce—swindle might be a more appropriate word—which is going on every day here and in Paris to an extent hitherto unprecedented, thanks to the ignorant ambition of people to possess collections of objects of "bigotry and virtue." The whole domain of art and decorative furniture has fallen under the control of a parcel of dealers, who make their market of the foolish vanity of that large section of the public which is stimulated to extravagance, partly by the besetting desire to emulate their neighbours' extravagance, and partly by the imperfect knowledge picked up in museums, and in the infinite babblement about art manufactures with which we have been stunted for the last few years.—*Fraser's Magazine.*

SYDNEY SMITH REPRISATED.—An article on Edgar A. Poe, in the "Edinburgh Review" for April of the present year, calls forth the indignation of the "Nashville Gazette," which, after describing the reviewer's remarks as "rotten Bilgewater," reproves Sydney Smith, whom it conceives to be the author, in the following terms:—"If the Rev. Sydney Smith, the editor of the 'Edinburgh Review,' had more of the scholar and less of national prejudice, he would have devoted the time expended in the before-mentioned paragraph to a much better purpose by a more critical analysis of the writings of Poe. In fact, we think that the author of the 'Laven' and 'Annabelle' is above and beyond the critical acumen of the Reverend Gentleman."

THE BISHOP OF OXFORD'S BELIEF.—The "Record" having stated in a leading article that "it is now pretty generally known that the Bishop of Oxford does not scruple, at least in private, to avow his belief in the seven sacraments, as he pretends they were allowed by the primitive church before the Romish apostasy," the Bishop immediately replied, "I beg you, in your next paper, to declare, as publicly, that there is not one word of truth in the statement; but that it is simply and altogether false that I have ever avowed, or that I entertain, any such belief."

STARVATION IN THE METROPOLIS.—In addressing a meeting held at Norwich last week, on the subject of Poor-law reform, the Rev. G. H. McGill said the returns of the Registrar-General showed that from privation, want of breast-milk (resulting from privation), neglect, and cold, the following mortality had taken place in the ten years ending Dec. 31, 1857:—1848, 222; 1849, 235; 1850, 211; 1851, 292; 1852, 304; 1853, 358; 1854, 380; 1855, 460; 1856, 414; 1857, 416. Making a total, added the reverend gentleman, of 3,292 persons who had perished in London in ten years from absolute want of the necessities of life.

THE STEPHENSON SCHOOLS AT WILLINGTON.

THE foundation of the Stephenson Schools at Willington, on the site of the cottage once occupied by George Stephenson, is an event which deserves more than a passing notice. Whether as a memorial to the eminent man whose name the schools will assist in perpetuating, or as an instance of the liberality of his hardly less eminent son, the ceremony of Tuesday, the 16th of November, was more than ordinarily interesting. Fifty-five years before, to the day, and on the spot covered by those schools, George Stephenson's son Robert was born. It looks like a page in romance when the struggles of one are related, and the fame of both. What the unknown and humble man, who lived in that quiet cottage by the side of the river Tyne, has accomplished, has become a matter of world-wide celebrity. What the child, who was ushered into the world on the 16th of November, 1803, has done, is equally famous. He has bridged straits, rivers, and estuaries—he has carried the mechanical genius of his country into every clime; and both of them have been the powerful instruments of a revolution, the gigantic effects of which will only be limited by the existence of time. There is something peculiarly appropriate in the dedication of the spot where Mr. Robert Stephenson was born to the purposes of education. When we remember the efforts which the father made to educate the son, the privations which he endured to give to him an inheritance of sound principles and information equally sound, we may be thankful that in our time these blessings can be communicated so freely, and with a cost so slight, as to be within the reach of every one.

Certainly a more happy memorial of what we know to have been the feelings of George Stephenson could not have been devised than the establishment of the schools at Willington. Let us hope that as his own care in the education of his son has been repaid with a fame and usefulness almost unequalled in the engineering world, these schools founded in his name may be instrumental in spreading abroad the blessings he appreciated so highly. We know too well that "the good men do oft interred with their bones," but happily in this instance we find a good deed done half a century ago springing up into fruit of the richest kind, and the virtues of an eminent man inspiring others to similar work, and advancing an ever-increasing harvest long after the words, "ashes to ashes," have been uttered over his last resting-place.

These buildings comprise schools for girls, boys, and infants, together with a mechanics' institute, and dwelling-house for the master and mistress of the schools. They cost about £2,000.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY, CANADA.

WE place before our readers illustrations of some of the bridges upon the great Canadian Railway: among them two views of the Victoria Bridge, Montreal, of which we give a description below. Port Hope Viaduct is 250 miles west of Montreal; it was begun, finished, and opened in less than five months, with ten miles of heavy railway work on each side of it. There are 52 spans, varying from 30 to 60 feet in length; the foundations are all 15 feet below the surface, on account of numerous strong springs of water. The ironwork for this as well as the other bridges on the line was made at the Canada works, Birkenhead, which were erected specially by Messrs. Peto, Brassey, and Betts, for the fulfilment of their Canadian contracts. The whole of the iron bridges, taken together, will measure nearly five miles in length. The earthwork for the ten miles of railway adjacent to the Port Hope viaduct was performed by the American steam excavators, which moved a quantity of the hard material of which the cuttings consisted, utterly impracticable in the same time by any method in use in Europe.

Credit Viaduct, 21 miles west of Toronto, is composed of 9 spans of 96 feet, each built of sand-stone and iron; of the latter there are 450 tons used in its construction. The masonry work of the piers and abutments is laid in courses varying from 2 to 3 feet in thickness. The embankments having approaches to it contain 150,000 cubic yards of clay. All of the bridges upon the Grand Trunk road are built in the most substantial manner, combining great strength with elegance.

Fifteen years ago, the project of a railway from Portland, in the

state of Maine, to Montreal, in Canada, was talked of among a few of the enterprising inhabitants of both cities. The matter was discussed in public and private, meetings were held, and it was determined that the road should be built. Outside the sections of country directly interested there arose a strong opposition, and every means were used to defeat the undertaking. But in spite of all discouragements the railway was built, and the St. Lawrence river, in Canada, was united by iron bands with the Atlantic Ocean at Portland. From this comparatively small beginning, there has arisen the most gigantic railway enterprise in the world. The most sanguine of its supporters at the commencement could not have anticipated its present greatness. Under one company and one board of managers, there are nearly one thousand miles of railway, admirably constructed, fully equipped, and running regularly through the heart of Canada, having an ocean terminus, with a great depth of water, and easy of access at all seasons of the year; and the day is not far distant, when the Pacific Ocean will be connected with the Atlantic by this road, making it the great highway from the East Indies, China, and Japan.

We invite our readers to accompany us on a trip through Canada by the Grand Trunk Railway, commencing at Portland. The station at Portland we find to be a large and substantial edifice, admirably fitted up. We have our luggage checked through to Quebec, obtain tickets, and seat ourselves in a luxurious car, capable of accommodating sixty passengers in one compartment. Precisely to the moment a signal is given, and we are on our way. Onward we go, passing through a finely-cultivated country, dotted with villages. In a few hours the scene changes. Before us rise a range of lofty mountains; we sweep along through gorges at their base, and wilder and grander the scenery becomes. In full sight, its snowy peak lost among the clouds, we behold Mount Washington, the loftiest of a range called the White Mountains, in New Hampshire. At noon we reach Island Pond, where we remain long enough to dine, and pass our luggage through the custom-house, as the Canadian line is but a few miles distant. At four p.m. we reach Richmond, in Canada, 220 miles from Portland. At this point we change cars for Quebec, reaching Point Levi, directly opposite that city, in the evening. A ferry-boat is waiting to convey us across the St. Lawrence, and in a few moments we are safely landed at "Russell's Hotel," after our first day's journey in America. Quebec is the only walled city, and one of the most interesting in North America; majestic in its strength, rich in historical associations, and delightful from the magnificent scenery around it, it possesses varied attractions to the visitor. The Plains of Abraham, where the gallant Wolfe fell; the citadel, with its bristling cannon; Durland Terrace, with a charming panoramic view; a drive to the Falls of Montmorency, six miles distant; together with the narrow streets, the picturesque costume of the French habitants, and the old religious buildings, attract many visitors to this the ancient capital of Canada. From Quebec the Grand Trunk Railway extends down the St. Lawrence to St. Thomas, thirty miles. Early in the coming season it will be opened to River de Loup, 114 miles below Quebec; from thence to continue on, forming a connection with the inter-colonial railway from Halifax, in Nova Scotia, and thus opening a much-needed communication with that province and New Brunswick.

Quebec, with a population of 55,000 inhabitants, is a place of much commercial importance. Immense quantities of timber—pine, oak, and elm—are shipped from this port; from 1,500 to 2,000 vessels a season load for Europe. Large numbers of emigrants, seeking a home in the New World, land here; in 1857, as many as 32,097. The Canadian Government has an agent to receive them on their arrival, to give them all the information they need, and to protect them from imposition. The Grand Trunk Railway has adopted an admirable plan of booking through emigrants and others from any port in Europe to any point in North America, *viz.* the St. Lawrence or Portland and their railways.

From Quebec we will visit Montreal. In five hours after leaving the former city we are landed at Longueuil, directly opposite Montreal, 172 miles from Quebec. We here cross the river by a ferry-boat.

Montreal, the great commercial city of Canada, is situated upon an island (bearing the same name), which is thirty-two miles long, and in its broadest part about fifteen. The soil is remarkably rich, and under the highest state of cultivation. The city itself is finely situated upon the St. Lawrence river; its buildings are of a most substantial character, built principally of granite. Some of the public edifices are magnificent, rivaling most of the finest buildings in America. The Cathedral of Notre Dame, a French Catholic church, is a beautiful edifice, capable of seating 10,000 worshippers; and the market and court-houses are at once spacious and elegant. The population of Montreal is 75,000; here the Grand Trunk Railway has its head offices for America. The Victoria Bridge (of which we give two illustrations) crosses the St. Lawrence about half a mile to the westward of Montreal. This city is the terminal point of ocean navigation on the one hand, and of the great Canadian and American lakes (extending two thousand miles into the heart of the continent) on the other. From this centre, too, lines of railway radiate to Portland, Boston, and New York; while it is proposed to extend lines from Ottawa and other rich districts of Canada.

It was soon seen that unless a bridge was erected across the St. Lawrence, the great and comprehensive plans of the Grand Trunk Railway Company could not be carried out, and the immense traffic from the far west (which, upon completion of this bridge, will find its way in this direction as a natural channel to the sea-board), would otherwise be diverted and cross into the United States at other points.

The Victoria Bridge will, when completed, be the longest bridge in the world, its length from bank to bank being very nearly two miles. It is tubular, and is built on the principle of the Britannia Bridge, across the Menai Straits. The Menai Bridge is 1,880 feet long. The Victoria Bridge is, therefore, nearly five-and-a-half times longer. Waterloo Bridge, London, is 1,362 feet long; the Canadian Bridge more than seven-and-a-half times its length. The Victoria Bridge crosses the St. Lawrence half a mile to the westward of Montreal. There will be twenty-four piers, which, with the two abutments, will leave twenty-five spaces for the tubes. The centre span will be 330 feet wide—the others, 242 feet. The width of each of the piers, except the two at the centre, will be 15 feet; the centre piers will each be 18 feet wide. The stone used in the construction of the piers and abutments is a dense blue limestone, of which each pier will contain from 6,000 to 8,000 tons each. The total amount of masonry in the bridge will be about 3,000,000 cubic feet, which, at 13½ feet to the ton, gives a total weight of about 222,000 tons. Scarcely a block of stone used in the piers is less than seven tons weight, and those most exposed to the force of the breaking-up ice weigh fully ten tons. The blocks are bound together not only by the use of the best water cement, but they are clamped together by massive iron rivets, bored several inches into each block—the interstices between the rivet and the stone being filled with molten lead.

At the present time all but three of the twenty-four piers are completed, and these three will soon be finished. During the last season six piers were in progress at one time, and the masonry placed in position on them exceeded one ton per minute. Four locomotives, 142 horses, six steamboats, seventy-two barges (manned by 500 hands), and 2,560 men, were at work for seventy days, averaging eighteen hours each day.

The tubes are nineteen feet high at each end, gradually increasing to twenty-two feet six inches in the centre. The width of each tube is to be sixteen feet, or nine feet six inches wider than the rail track, which is five feet six inches, the national railway gauge of Canada. The total weight in the tubes will be 10,400 tons. Mr. A. M. Ross and Mr. Robert Stephenson are the engineers of this great work, the former gentleman having been engineer-in-chief of the railway. The whole cost of this magnificent bridge will be about £1,250,000. The contract time for its completion is 1861, but unless some unforeseen accident occurs, it will be opened for traffic in the autumn of the present year.

From Montreal westward we pass, on our way, about nine miles distant from that city, "St. Anne's," immortalised by the Canadian boat-song of Moore. At this point there is a magnificent bridge, a perfect

face of what the Victoria Bridge will be when completed. The next point upon the line of any importance is Prescott, from which place a railway runs to Ottawa, the city selected by the Queen for the seat of government in Canada. Twelve miles above Prescott we reach Brockville, a smart thriving town, and fifty miles farther on we reach Kingston, a city fortified to some extent, and containing a population of 20,000 inhabitants; it was formerly the capital of the province.

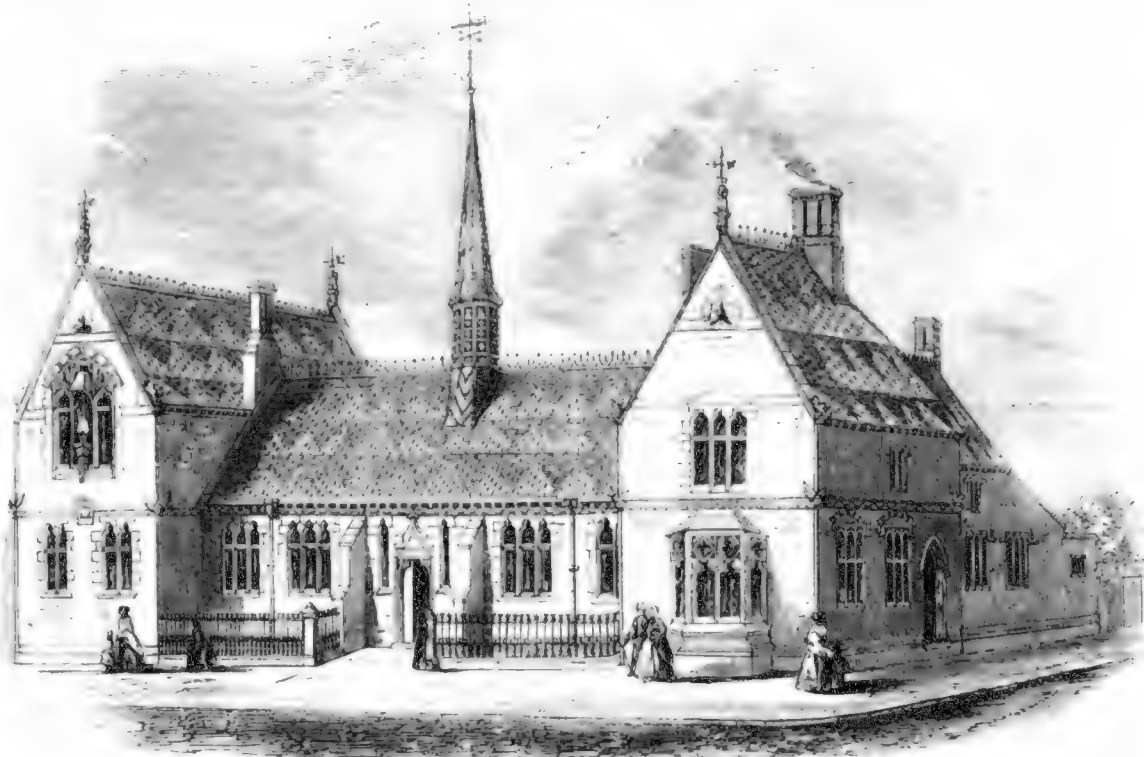
The next place of any note is Toronto, the present seat of government. In 1826 this city contained but 1,600 inhabitants; in 1842 it had 13,000; and in 1856, 42,000. The value of property within the city limits has more than doubled itself in six years. Toronto is situated upon Lake Ontario; it is finely laid out with broad streets, has many handsome buildings, and is a city of considerable commercial importance. The distance from Montreal to Toronto is 332 miles. From Toronto westward the Grand Trunk Railway extends to Sarnia, 172 miles. A line of railway is in progress of construction from Port Huron, opposite the Grand Trunk terminus at Sarnia, to Detroit, in the State of Michigan, forming a continuous line from Portland, 851 miles; from Quebec, 727 miles, and from Montreal, 569 miles, connecting at Detroit with all the great railway lines of the West, running to Chicago, Milwaukee, Toledo, St.

Louis, Cincinnati, and the Western States of the Union.

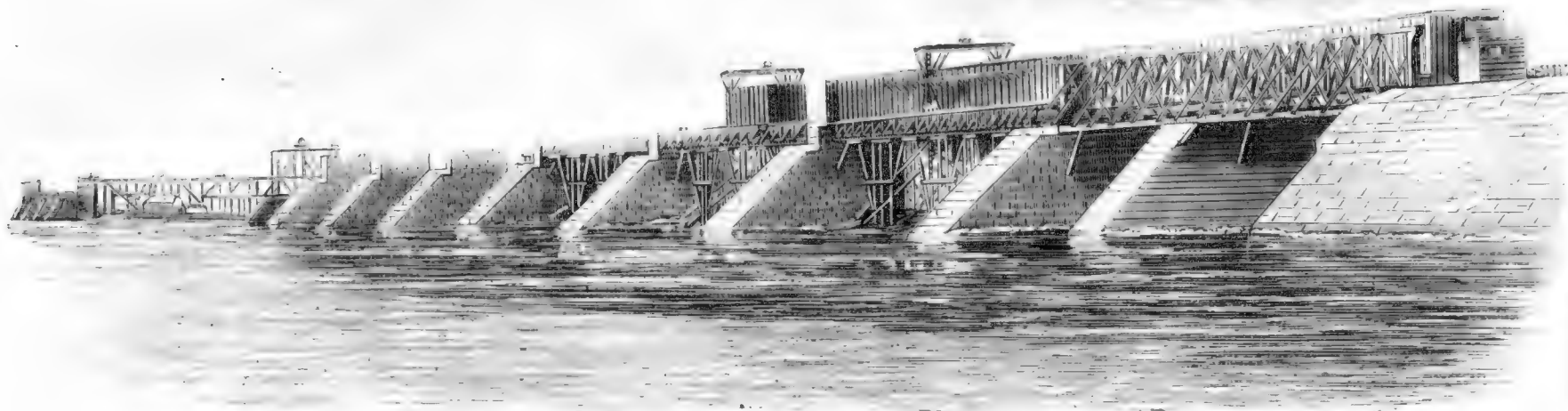
We have thus in a hurried manner made a trip through from Portland to the western terminus of the Grand Trunk road, merely glancing at a few of the principal places by the way. Yearly many thousands of pleasure travellers visit Canada from the United States, that country presenting unrivalled attractions to the tourist.

Its great lakes, broad rivers, extensive waterfalls, varied and interesting natural scenery, attractive cities, excellent climate, and capital sporting, hunting, and fishing. As increased facilities for travel have been given, the number of travellers has materially augmented, not only from different parts of America, but from Europe also. The lines of ocean steamers to Quebec and Portland offer easy, pleasant, and expeditious modes for visiting America. So by means of the Grand Trunk Railway one of the most important dependencies of England has been more fully opened up and developed.

Canada has an extent of country six times larger than England and Wales. It contains 3,618,000 square miles of territory; its present population is about 2,500,000 inhabitants. In 1848, it had 1,500,000—the increase having been one million inhabitants in ten years. The third of a century is generally reckoned as a generation. During that time, the population of Canada has



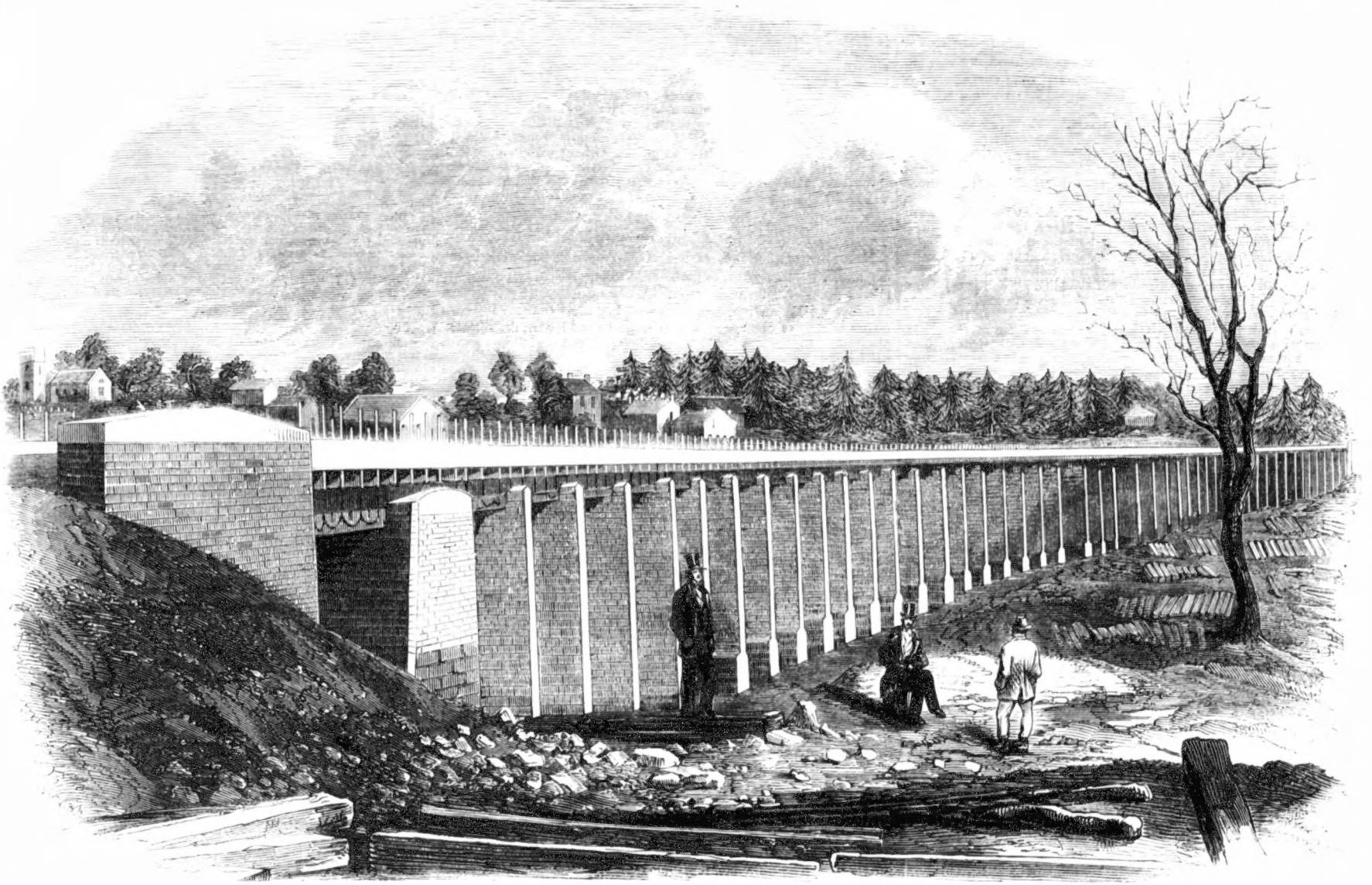
THE STEPHENSON SCHOOLS.



GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY OF CANADA: THE VICTORIA BRIDGE DURING THE PROGRESS OF THE WORKS.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.)



SOUTH ABUTMENTS AND PIERS OF VICTORIA BRIDGE, SHOWING THE SCAFFOLDING EMPLOYED FOR ERECTING THE FRAMEWORK.

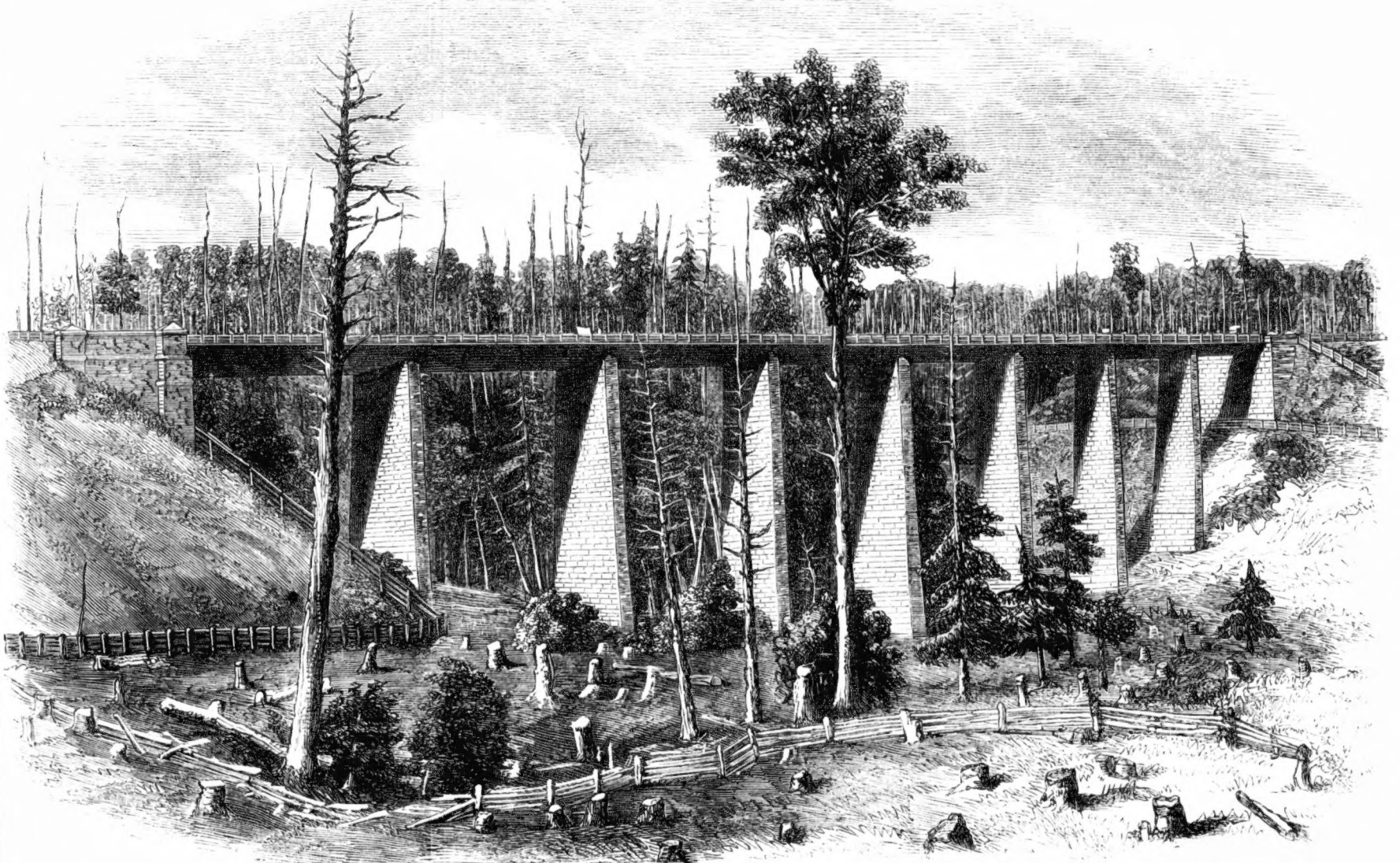


FORT HOPE VIADUCT, 250 MILES WEST OF MONTREAL.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.)

more than twice doubled itself. If that rate be continued, it will have, at the beginning of the next century, 20,000,000 of inhabitants. Previous to its present system of railways, the natural resources of the country were but little developed; now they are beginning to be understood and appreciated. Emigration has been directed thither, capital

has flown in, seeking an investment; an impetus has been given to business of every description; not only have the markets of Canada been made accessible at all seasons of the year, but the markets of the United States (free to Canadian products) have given a larger field for their disposal. Where dense forests once stood we now see

smiling villages, fertile farms, and populous towns. On every side manufactories have sprung up, and the rich mineral wealth of the country—iron, copper, gold, marble, manganese, and slate—is being brought out from nature's storehouses and made subservient to the wants of mankind.



CREDIT VIADUCT, 40 MILES WEST OF TORONTO.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.)

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

At the St. James's Theatre, M. Fougères (the "notorious" M. Fougères, as the "Literary Gazette" calls him), who was able to sing a very little, has been replaced by M. Berger, who cannot sing at all. It was a strange idea of M. Rémusat's to get together a very indifferent vaudeville company, with the view of playing operas. What could have led him to believe that the English public would tolerate such singing as he has provided for them at his Opéra Comique? A Frenchman, who had never heard any musical performance in England except "Nino," as given at her Majesty's Theatre, and who had never read any musical criticisms in an English journal except the article on the said representation of "Nino" in the "Saturday Review," might have imagined that we really liked bad music; but surely M. Rémusat has heard of the Royal Italian Opera, and of the Sacred Harmonic Society; and he must be aware that even Mr. Lumley never thought of commencing a season without some three or four singers of the highest merit to depend upon. The one vocalist at the St. James's Theatre who is not wholly incapable is Madame Fauré, and at times she really seems clever. But we all know what an exalted position belongs to the one-eyed man in the "kingdom of the blind;" and it is merely the incapacity of those who surround her that gives to Madame Fauré a certain appearance of distinction. That she cannot sing the music of Auber's *soprano* is quite certain, but she gives some of the easier passages with correct dramatic expression and acts with vigour. The last work murdered at the St. James's Theatre was the "Domino Noir." The most terrible of the conspirators and assassins engaged in the crime was the aforesaid M. Berger, who, of course, had a prominent part assigned to him. Madame Montagrè, however (as Jacinthe), did her worst, and we can assure the innocent reader that her worst is very bad indeed. She went a step beyond the horrible, and reached the ludicrous. The audience at first felt inclined to groan; but they ended by bursting into a loud laugh and cheered the venerable *débütante* in the most hearty and facetious manner. The company of the Opéra Comique consist of the worst singers extant. They have been collected at some expense, and with infinite want of judgment, from all parts of Europe. Wherever a particularly bad vocalist was to be heard of, there M. Rémusat appears to have gone. The only possible explanation that can be given of the enterprise is this—that it was undertaken for a bet. If so—if M. Rémusat laid a certain sum of money that he would open in London, and cause to be advertised in the London papers, an operatic theatre, supported by the worst company ever known, he has fairly won his wager.

"St. Paul" to pass from the ridiculous to the sublime—was performed at Exeter Hall on Friday week by the Sacred Harmonic Society. This was Mendelssohn's first oratorio, and was produced at Düsseldorf in 1836, having been written for the combined Rhenish Festival, held successively at Cologne, Düsseldorf, and Aix-la-Chapelle. It was given in the autumn of the same year at Liverpool, and was at once accepted by critics and by the public as the greatest sacred work of the grand oratorio form that had been composed since the time of Handel. But when, ten years afterwards, "Elijah" was brought out at the Birmingham festival (for which it was written), under the direction of Mendelssohn himself, it obtained so rapidly and entirely the favour of the English public, that "St. Paul" fell comparatively into neglect. Recently, however, it has been resumed, and of the performance of Friday week it may be said that on the whole it was the best that has taken place in London. The overture (on the subject of the "Sleepers awake," of the conversion scene) was magnificently executed, as were also the sublime chorus of Christians, with which the work commences, and the succeeding chorale "To God on high," (founded on an old Lutheran tune). From the appearance of the false witnesses to the stoning of Stephen, all the choruses show in a remarkable manner Mendelssohn's power of painting the emotions and tumults of agitated multitudes. Stephen's address to the crowd, "Men, brethren, and fathers," is one of the most magnificent accompanied recitatives ever written, and it was sung admirably by Mr. Sims Reeves, who was heard to equal advantage in the "Jerusalem, Jerusalem," with its exquisite melody and its truly perfect accompaniments. The pathetic and beautiful chorale "To Thee, O Lord," (which, it may be remembered, was played by one of the military bands at the Duke of Wellington's funeral), and the chorus, "Happy and blest"—a masterpiece of tranquil beauty—were given with as much effect as the fiery, wrathful compositions of the same form which precede them, and to which they present so striking a contrast. Equally remarkable and admirable is the contrast between the air of Saul, the furious persecutor, "Consume them all," and the exquisite and pathetic melody sung by Paul, the humble and repentant Christian, "O God, have mercy upon me." The scene of the miraculous conversion, the capital point of the oratorio, and one of the gravest inspirations and most masterly performances of the composer, was rendered magnificently; and the chorus, "Oh, great is the depth" (which Mendelssohn, without losing his own individuality, has treated in the true Handel style), brought the first part to a glorious termination. The opening of the second part, "The nations are now the Lord's," is again a choral masterpiece, and was sung most effectively, as were also the choruses of the multitude—so thoroughly Mendelssohnian—the choruses of Gentiles (especially, "O, be gracious, ye immortals"), the chorus of Jews and Gentiles united, and "Not only unto him"—the worthy climax to a mighty work. Mr. Sims Reeves, who, in sacred music, is quite unapproachable, sang admirably throughout; and the tenderness and fervour with which he gave the *cavatina* of Barnabas, "Be thou faithful," elicited loud applause in spite of the conventional rule which forbids all manifestations of approbation at oratorio performances. The regulation may appear severe as regards the singers, but it is not applied on the Continent with even greater stringency, whenever a king or an emperor pays a state visit to the opera house? Signor Beletti (who, by the way, learned to sing sacred music in England, as Signor Costa learned to conduct it) proved himself a thorough artist in all he executed. We must mention that to this vocalist and Mr. Reeves was allotted the *duettino* between Barnabas and Paul, "Now are we ambassadors," which accordingly was well sung, whereas on most occasions it is left to inferior singers and spoilt. Miss Dolby's singing would have been unexceptionable, but for the habit she has lately acquired of taking everything too slow. The gentleman who represented the false witnesses, were, as usual, industrious and out of tune. "St. Paul" is to be repeated on Friday next.

The "Monday Popular Concerts"—natural successors of the celebrated Cattle Show speculations—are going on well, thanks to Miss Arabella Goddard and Mr. Sims Reeves, and in spite of the Swedish singers. These gentlemen are very well in their way, but the least they can be expected to do is to sing genuine Swedish melodies. When the great Mickiewicz delivered his so-called lecture on Slavonian literature in Paris, the Parisian students, finding that he spoke of Hegel, the King of Prussia, the Supreme Being, and of everything except the literature of the Slavonians, came (incorrectly) to this conclusion: that as Mickiewicz was professor of Slavonian literature, and never mentioned the subject, there could be no Slavonian literature to profess. At the risk of falling into a similar error, we cannot help fancying that the Swedish melodies are but few when we find the "Swedish singers" obliged to fall back upon very ordinary German part-songs by Kücken, and a certain Müller, less known to fame. These minstrels have now boldly thrown off their national costume—or rather, national costumes, for, strangely enough, each of the seven vocalists used to wear a different one. Is this symbolical of their abjurement of Scandinavianism? and are the black coats outward signs of an inward conversion to the manners and melodies of central Europe? However that may be, we really cannot tolerate the Swedes simply as singers. If we were to engage a Highland piper to play at an evening party (to suppose an utterly improbable case), we should not expect him to leave his kilt and his bagpipes behind, and to come in a suit of black with a fiddle under his arm. Nor is it allowable for a company of gentlemen, under pretence of being Swedish singers, to hum, whistle, and shriek the part-songs of inferior German

composers. Mr. Sims Reeves, who has quite recovered from his recent indisposition, sang, on Monday night, Balfé's ballad, "Let me whisper in thine ear," "My pretty Jane," and "The Bay of Biscay." Miss Goddard performed a new fantasia on Irish melodies by Mr. Benedict, and Mozart's "Air in A with variations." The applause and encore elicited by Miss Goddard's performance of Mozart's piece (let us state, by way of memorandum, that Mr. Reeves and Miss Goddard are *always* encored) should be accepted by concert-givers as a sign that the public have not that aversion to classical music which they are pleased to attribute to it. But the most convincing proof of this was afforded on Saturday last, when Miss Goddard gave a *matinée musicale* at the St. James's Hall. Every piece performed, without exception, was of the classical kind; the room was crowded; the audience listened throughout with the greatest attention; and the accomplished pianist was loudly applauded at the conclusion of each *morceau*.

LAW AND CRIME.

Mrs. NEWELL, widow, excited much sympathy last week by an application to Mr. Norton, at the Lambeth Police-court, respecting her missing daughter. The daughter was a handsome girl, obtaining a livelihood as a dancer at the metropolitan theatres. For some time she had been unable to obtain employment, and latterly she had spoken despairingly of suicide. On the evening of Wednesday week last she left home with a letter of introduction to a lady, and had not since been heard of. She was of strictly moral character, and had frequently returned presents sent by strangers. Such was the substance of a story, which, narrated at the police-court, obtained publicity through the journals. Benevolent individuals sent in subscriptions, as usual in well-authenticated published cases of distress; and two or three theatrical managers came forward to offer an engagement to the missing daughter, should she be discovered. An advertisement, imploring her to return, and informing her of the change of her domestic prospects, appeared in the second column of the "Times." The popular newspapers published leaders on the subject, indulging in lugubrious speculations, and quoting rhymes from Hood, relating to "One more unfortunate." On Monday last, Mr. Norton received from a fireman at her Majesty's Theatre, a letter stating that the missing Jane Newell had been at that house on Saturday, had fetched away a garment termed a "practising dress," and had told him that she was married and living in St. James's Square. The magistrate was hereupon about to communicate with Mrs. Newell, when he was informed that she and her daughter were both then in court to thank him for the kindly interest taken by him in their misfortunes. The daughter then came forward and gave an account of the circumstances of her absence from home. On her road to deliver the letter before mentioned, she had met one Emily Hobbs, formerly of Drury Lane, and had gone with her to a public house, where both the ladies partook of sherry. Thence, to the residence of a "lady friend" of Miss Hobbs, one Mrs. Ellis, of Piccadilly. Miss Hobbs and Mrs. Ellis had some private conversation, and Mrs. Ellis said she could not let Miss Newell go, it was so late; she was to make Mrs. Ellis's house her home, and not to be low-spirited. Thereupon Miss Newell did stay. Not even so much as a message to the poor mother waiting awake through the night, does Miss Newell appear, from her own statement, to have so much as thought of for a moment. On the following day, she says, she gave the servant a letter to post. This letter, be it observed, was never delivered, and although consequently Miss Newell could have had no communication from her mother in reply, the poor half-frantic woman was suffered to remain in suspense. On the Friday, Mrs. Ellis began to throw out hints and to make proposals, and, although these are said to have been rejected, Miss Newell remained in the house until Sunday evening. She says that Mrs. Ellis would not allow her to go out unaccompanied. Yet she admits that, in Mrs. Ellis's company, she had gone to Brompton to purchase a bonnet. She went alone to the theatre on Saturday to fetch her dress, and when recognised there by the fireman, who informed her of the wretched state of her mother, and gave her a newspaper with the details of her mother's application and its results, she told him a deliberate falsehood as to her position, and gave him a false address. She then returned to Mrs. Ellis, and showed her the paper. On the following day (Sunday) Miss Newell returned to her mother; no means apparently being used to obstruct her departure from Mrs. Ellis's house. We offer no comment upon these facts, which we detail from Miss Newell's own statement; but we must add that a subsequent examination has tended utterly to discredit the girl's story and reputation.

The bar of the Insolvent Court had a nice opportunity, last week, for a little innocent jocularly. An insolvent had been connected in bill transactions with one Gosling, who subsequently went to "the favourite prison" at Canterbury, and got discharged. "Many insolvents," said the opposing creditor, "go there and get discharged." "No doubt it is a snug place," said Mr. Reed, counsel practising in the Insolvent Court. "Quite a retreat," added Mr. Dowse, counsel also. "I have heard," said Mr. Commissioner Murphy, judicial authority and humorist, "that insolvents are in the habit of visiting Canterbury." Does the innocent reader know what this means? If not, we cannot tell him. But if it means anything at all—a point on which we pass no opinion—the inference seems to be, that in a certain city of this kingdom there is a certain tribunal which affords facilities not to be met with elsewhere, to rogues desirous of escaping the proper consequences of swindling creditors by acts not exactly criminal by law.

The vast arrears of business in the Divorce Court appear to have excited the attention of the authorities. We are told that Mr. Justice Willes will resign his post as judge in the Common Pleas, and will be appointed to assist Sir C. Cresswell, the present judge of the Divorce Court. He is, however, to assist by trying causes at the same time with his colleague; so that, while facilitating the mere despatch of business, the new appointment will really be another stumbling-block in the way of suitors, by rendering the attendance of eminent counsel in any particular case more problematical than ever. In term time, when the three Courts of Common Law each hold two, and occasionally three simultaneous sessions (one of each being *in banco*, and requiring three or four judges), the injuries and expenses caused to unhappy clients, whose counsel happen to be engaged in other causes, perhaps in the same court, have already been bad enough. Now that another court is to be established, matters will be made worse, and time will be saved at the expense of justice—a very bad exchange indeed.

Mr. Coward, of the "Morning Post," brought an action, which was tried this week before Mr. Baron Bramwell, against Mr. Baddeley, an inspector in the fire brigade, for false imprisonment. It appears that the plaintiff was present at a fire, at Islington, at about two o'clock one morning on his way to his duties. The defendant was there directing the water from the fire engine. Mr. Coward thought that the way in which the stream was being poured into the midst of the flames, seemed to make matters worse. He expressed his opinion thereon to Mr. Baddeley, who gave him into custody of a policeman for an alleged assault. Plaintiff was thereupon conveyed to a station-house, where all the policemen appear at once to have arrived at the conclusion that he was drunk, upon no other ground than that, not being a policeman, he was out of bed. They locked him up in a filthy cell with two ruffians charged with assault and robbery, and later in the morning added to his company a young pickpocket, charged with stealing what the police-sergeant called "a nankerocher." They refused his application for bail, and when he asked to be allowed to send a messenger to a friend, charged him with a new offence—that of being disorderly. It came out on the trial that the police insist upon locking up, without giving a chance of bail, persons caught under the influence of liquor, but going home in an orderly way, perfectly able to take care of themselves. Of course, defendant was not liable for the state of the cell, and the cruelty of the police, and therefore the damages awarded against him by the jury were moderate, only £10. The learned judge, after the verdict, passed a well-merited compliment upon the conduct of the police, who, he said, had acted as wrongly and as stupidly as any set of men possibly could.

POLICE.

THE CHARGE OF THROWING A CHILD OUT OF WINDOW.—Esther Griggs, has been committed for trial, for having thrown her child—an infant eighteen months old—out of window. Mr. Broughton gave it as his opinion that the woman was labouring under a paroxysm produced by drink, at the time; and that if he was to let her go, "she might go back to her family and throw another one out." As our readers remember, the poor woman alleges that she committed the act in a sudden fright, on waking up from a dream in which she imagined the house was on fire; and they will likewise remember that all the circumstances of the case favoured her statement. After much persuasion, Mr. Broughton consented to take bail in two sureties of £30 each.

LAW FOR APPRENTICES.—A youth, apprenticed to an engineer, summoned his master for refusing to pay him 2s. 6d. This sum had been stippled by the master for Christmas-day. The Thames Police Magistrate decreed that Christmas-day is the same as a Sunday to those who are employed, and paid by the week, and that they are entitled to a week's wages without deduction. This decision enraged the master, who at once discharged the boy, pleading that his indenture had been broken—the violation consisting in absconding himself from work to appeal to the magistrate! The master was very reticent. Mr. Yardley fined him 40s. for refusing to take back the boy, and reminded him that he was liable for 40s. for every day that he refused to teach the apprentice his trade. The master said he should appeal.

A MAGISTRATE'S OPINION OF PAROCHIAL AUTHORITIES.—A girl, aged 16, was brought before Mr. Tyrwhitt, charged with wandering without visible means of subsistence. It was proved that she had been refused admission to St. Pancras workhouse. The master of the workhouse attended and said, the reason why he did not give orders for the girl's admission was because he was not told that she was "deserted," only that she wanted a night's lodging.

Mr. Tyrwhitt—You do not mean to say that when a person is brought by the police, found in the public streets, without a home, you refuse admission, because he belongs to a neighbouring parish?

The Master—Well, no; it depends. Mr. Tyrwhitt said he looked with real sorrow and annoyance on this case, and was surprised at the way in which the master of the workhouse seemed to treat it. This was not one of those pathetic cases which sometimes occurred where the girl had been exposed to every vice and wickedness, but here she was taken to the workhouse for a night's lodging and refused admission. Had it not been for the police, she might have lain in the streets exposed, for any sounder who were ready to bring disgrace and ruin upon her. He felt a certain degree of shame that in a country, so ready to relieve the unfortunate and distressed, where workhouses only existed for such poor people, that a man should be found so cold-hearted as to refuse admission to a poor helpless girl, and turn her upon the streets. He could not help remarking that the masters of workhouses read poor-law reports and regulations until they thought of nothing else, and their hearts grew harder. This was never intended by the authorities at the Poor-law Board. Such conduct as had been pursued in this case was a perfect disgrace to the administration of the Poor-law. How was it that such dreadful cases came from that parish alone? There must be several more when one of their officers was now under remand, and warrants had been issued against others, who could not be found. The master might have admitted the girl, for the turning of her on the streets exposed her to many dangers which he did not seem to know of. He (Mr. Tyrwhitt) must express in the strongest terms the indignation he felt at the neglect and indifference which was shown to the most helpless of the population. The parish authorities of St. Pancras might appeal to the papers or to the Poor-law, but the girl should have been admitted, and he should have been saved the pain of hearing such a case as that before him. He could not understand how a man could bring himself to be so hard-hearted and so indifferent. Are the rates raised to be spent for the pleasure of those who sit in judgment over the poor? No; but for the relief of the distressed. It was a sad case—sad in every way in which it could be looked at.

Mr. Tyrwhitt then directed that the unfortunate girl should be taken by the master to the St. Pancras Workhouse and treated kindly, and if Clerkewell was her proper parish, that she might be passed in the legal way.

MARY PRATT, the child of Mr. Pratt, doorkeeper of the House of Commons, has been killed, in consequence of reckless driving. Two omnibuses were hastening along the Colinton Road; Mrs. Pratt hailed the first; as she was attempting to reach it, the second dashed up and knocked her down, killing her child.

MRS. BANKS, who is awaiting her trial in prison, charged with being a participator in the murder of Mr. Parsons, was delivered of a male child on Sunday last.

NEW MODE OF ROBBERY.—Captain Kurze, a foreigner, had just seated himself in a Blackwall railway carriage, when a well-dressed man entered the carriage, and, as the train started, said to his vis-à-vis, "There is some dirt on your face—some black; allow me to wipe it off." Captain Kurze nodded assent. The stranger advanced towards him with a handkerchief in his hand, and put it on the face of the captain, who immediately became insensible, and did not return to a state of consciousness until the train reached London, when he found himself alone in the carriage, and missed his pocket-book, containing £60 in gold and notes. The pocket-book had been cut out of his trousers pocket. The robber has not since been seen.

SUPPOSED MURDER AT DUDLEY.—On Wednesday of last week a woman, named Mary Townshend, living with her husband in a small room behind the Mormon Chapel, at Dudley, was found dead in bed, under very mysterious circumstances. A son of the deceased, by a former husband, who had knocked at the door of the house and asked to see his mother, was ordered off by her husband; he then went away, but afterwards returned, and, not gaining admission, he went for a constable, who broke open the door. The woman was lying on the bed quite dead. She lay upon her back, and her arms and hands were raised to her throat, as if resisting something. There was a rosary round her throat, drawn very tight. A surgeon who examined the body was of opinion that the deceased died from suffocation, produced by external pressure. He noticed an extensive indentation on the outside of the neck; there was also a congestion of the brain, which would be produced by strangulation or suffocation. An inquest was held, at which the following verdict was returned:—"That the death of the deceased was attributable to suffocation produced by external pressure, but as to how or in what manner that external pressure was produced, no sufficient evidence has been offered."

COLLIERY RIOTS AT WIGAN.—There have been some rather serious riots at Wigan, arising out of a strike there. So threatening was the aspect of the mob that it was deemed prudent to summon a detachment of military from Salford. There was a good deal of stone-throwing, and several of the police were hurt, but not seriously. None of the offenders were secured.

MURDER AT QUEENSBOROUGH.—A young woman named Emma Coppings, in the service of Mr. Stevens, a clerk in the Captain-Superintendent's Office, Sheerness, who had been sent out for beer, was found lying on the pavement, opposite the Market Place, High Street, Queensborough, with her throat cut from ear to ear, and quite dead. A razor and a man's ear were found near the body, and were identified as belonging to a labourer, named Frederic Prentice, who, the same evening, surrendered himself. The girl had refused to accept his attentions. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder" against the prisoner, and he was committed to Maidstone jail to take his trial. The accused has not spoken since he gave himself up.

THE FATE OF STRAHAN AND PAUL.—A few months back, public attention was called to the peculiar circumstances connected with the fate of Strahan and Paul, the bankers. Upon their conviction they received the extreme sentence of the law—fourteen years' penal servitude. An act passed last session, however, reduced the penalty for similar offences in all future cases to three years' imprisonment. As Strahan and Paul completed this term at the beginning of last month, it was thought that, for the sake of consistency, their punishment would then be mitigated. When it was found last month that no mitigation was announced to Strahan and Paul, a memorial was prepared on their behalf signed by the most eminent London houses, and presented to Mr. Secretary Walpole. It has received, however, no attention.

AN INCENDIARY FARMER.—Mr. James Grundy, a farmer, at Lullington, Derbyshire, has been committed for trial, on the charge of setting fire to eight cornstacks belonging to another farmer, named Moxon, living in the same parish. He told his servants, on the night when the stacks were burned, that he had set them on fire. When he was apprehended, he endeavoured to seize a razor in order to cut his throat.

SUPPOSED MURDER AT OLDHAM.—A man named James Robinson, a mechanic, was found lying on a road from Sheepwash Lane, Oldham, with a wound in his neck, from which he shortly afterwards died. When asked, "Have you done this?" he only shook his head in reply. A knife was found near him, and from the traces of blood it appeared that he had staggered about sixty yards.

GENERAL JAMES GADSDEN, formerly United States Minister to Mexico, died at Charleston on the 26th ultimo.

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